

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
HELD ON JANUARY 12, 2010 AT
RIVERDALE YM/YWHA 5625 ARLINGTON AVENUE**

- PRESENT:** R. Abbott, S. Alexander, B. Bender, A. P. Cassino, A. Cohen, W. S. Dolny, T. C. Durham, A. Fana, R. Fanuzzi, A. G. Feldmeier, B. Fettman, T. Giallorenzi, R. Ginty, A. Goldman, M. Khury, G. O. Koppell, I. Ladimer, Y. Levy, S. Marquez, B. Maybury, D. McShane, C. G. Moerdler, D. Padernacht, K. Pesce, J. Pilsner, J. Reyes, S. Scheinbach, I. W. Stone, B. Trebach, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, H. Young
- ABSENT:** S. Balicer, D. Bowden, A. P. Creaney, T. Feerick, B. Feinberg, P. Friedman, S. Froot, J. Goris, V. Gray, K. O'Brien, J. O'Reilly, L. Spalter
- STAFF:** N. Stent – District Manager, CB 8
D. Bay – Community Associate, CB 8
P. Manning – Community Associate, CB 8
- GUESTS:** J. Dinowitz - NYS Assemblyman
F. Cabrera - NYC Councilman
J. DeSio - rep. Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.
R. Fedderman - rep. Congressman Eliot Engel
G. Faulkner - Office of Councilman Fernando Cabrera
J. Kim - rep. State Senator Eric Schneiderman
R. Martos - Office of Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz
Y. Salih - rep. State Senator Jeffrey Klein
A. Sandler - Office of Councilman G. Oliver Koppell
A. Applebaum – Riverdale Press
H. Baret
M. Cardoza - NY Yankees Youth Leadership Awardee
N. Danyluk - NYC Department of City Planning
J. Dean
C. M. Giove – Riverdale Review
S. Glidden – Croton Water Clean Water Coalition, Inc.
K. Judge – NY Yankees Youth Leadership Awardee
S. Mahoney – Kingsbridge Heights Community Center
P. Moerdler
J. Morris – Riverdale Neighborhood House
S. Nagraj – NY Yankees Youth Leadership Awardee
L. Noble – Riverdale Review
N. Nunez – Riverdale Neighborhood House
M. Perron – Van Cortlandt Park
R. Press – Bronx News
C. Schiller – Riverdale YM/YWHA

M. Smith
C. Smol – NYC Department of City Planning
P. Schulman – NY Yankees Youth Leadership Awardee
M. Styles – NY Yankees Youth Leadership Awardee
D. Tannen
W. Zorilla – Kingsbridge Heights Community Center

Chairman McShane convened the meeting at 7:40 PM

Gallery Session

- A. Suzannah Glidden, Croton Watershed Clean Water Coalition, Inc. discussed the escalation of water and sewer rates and measures to protect the water supply. To that end she presented a resolution calling upon the NYC Council and Water Board to consider such legislation, and Board support. Chairman McShane referred the matter to the Environment and Sanitation Committee.
- B. Robert Capon, CENSUS Bureau, explained the importance of filling out the census form. Informed that hiring is occurring for part-time positions with hourly rates of \$14 to \$21. Applicants must be tested and the position does not include health insurance. Flyers and cards were made available for further information.
- C. Herb Barret asked for inspection of two driveway curb cuts installed at the new development on West 231 Street and Corlear Avenue that impact on the bus stop.
 1. Approval of Regular Board Meeting Minutes of December 8, 2009

Minutes were approved unanimously.
 2. Discussion of Executive Board Committee Meeting Minutes of January 5, 2010

B. Bender made a correction on page 3 under the Parks and Recreation report regarding the homeless shelter program at Kingsbridge Heights Community Center. The third paragraph, third sentence should read as follows: “This may constitute alienation of parkland...”

The amended minutes were adopted.
 3. Presentation of New York Yankees Youth Leadership Awards

Chairman introduced Dr. Roscoe Brown, President, NY Yankees Community Council, to present the awards highlighting Dr. Brown’s extensive work as an educator, for the advancement of civil and equal rights, his work as community activist, and involvement with a host other humanitarian services.

Dr. Brown explained the Yankee Organization programs that sponsor little leagues, support valedictorians, provide game tickets and more. He thanked the Steinbrenners and the entire Yankee organization for their community support and generosity. Dr. Brown presented the awards to deserving students that were nominated by Bronx Community Board No. 8. Each student was presented with a check of \$500 for their volunteer services and exemplary leadership skills:

1) **Krystal Judge**

- Nominated by Kingsbridge Heights Community Center
- HS Senior at Bronx Academy of Health Careers (within the Evander Child's Campus)
- Is a youth leader and member of the Youth Leadership Council (YLC).
- She is trained as a peer mediator.
- Has been involved in a range of activities including sports, community service and the arts.

2) **Malcolm Styles**

- Nominated by Riverdale Neighborhood House
- HS Senior at MS/HS 141
- Has interned at RNH for two years working with children in the After School Program.
- Developed and implemented age appropriate activities to promote literacy and learned classroom management skills.
- Was one of the first summer interns at the Youth market.
- Supports staff through general fund raising and outreach to the community and local schools to promote activities within the Teen Program and special events at RNH.

3) **Sanjana Nagraj**

- Nominated by Riverdale Community Center
- Sophomore at MS/HS 141
- Is a representative to the NY City Forum for Health Awareness,
- Participated in the annual AIDS walk
- Assisting in the coordination of the 2010 Health Fair.
- Has accumulated over 60 hours of community service.

4) **Margarita Cordozo**

- Nominated by Marble Hill Community Center
- 6TH Grade at St. John's School
- Has participated in tutoring programs for students
- Has worked with the elderly.

5) **Paula Schulman**

- Nominated by Riverdale YM-YWHA
- Senior at MS/HS 141

- Organizes group activities and engages children at the Riverdale Y's "Kid's Space" after school program.
- Is in the honor society, a member of the basketball team and serves on the school's dance committee.

The honorees were congratulated on a job well done.

4. Chairman welcomed and invited newly elected NYC Councilman Fernando Cabrera, representing Council District 14 to address the Board. Councilman Cabrera stated that he resides in Bronx Community Board 8 and expressed his pleasure in serving and taking part in the business of the district.
5. Chairman invited Councilman Koppell to address the Board.
 - Councilman Koppell reported that the Bronx District managers met with the Bronx City Council Delegation to discuss the Mayoral budget cuts to community boards. The Delegation is totally opposed to any cuts and will work hard to eliminate them. With regard to proposed development for supportive housing at 3469 Cannon Place, he stated his hope for satisfactory resolution accommodating both sides and is looking forward to a productive year in the Council.
6. Chairman invited Assemblyman Dinowitz to address the Board.
 - Assemblyman Dinowitz thanked those who participated in the Can Food Drive to assist with the high demand for food pantry donations; Governor Paterson is unveiling a budget with deep cuts. State and City funding is expected to be impacted; Assemblyman Dinowitz stated his intention not to vote to eliminate the cap on Charter Schools; Advised that he agrees with Councilman Koppell in some ways on 3469 Cannon Place development, but feels the wishes of the community should be valued.
7. Chairman invited Captain Lindquist to address the Board.
 - Capt. Lindquist reported on crime statistics. Crime is down in all categories except grand larceny auto, which is up 17% for the year with 196 versus 179 last year. The strategy this year will be applied to reverse the trend. This year's first homicide in the 50th Precinct occurred yesterday with a stabbing death in Marble Hill Houses. The victim was known to assailant. Graffiti vandalism should be reported to the Precinct.

Chairman McShane welcomed Detective Rodriguez back from sick leave.
8. Report from the Borough President's Office – J. DeSio

- A press conference held today announced the 2nd Annual Gun Buyback program. The office of Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr., NYPD, and the Bronx District Attorney's Office will collaborate on this effort. The event will take place on January 23rd at selected Bronx locations serving as drop off points from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM.
- The Office of the Bronx Borough President will be accepting community board membership applications through February 5th. City residents who reside or have professional or other significant interests in the Bronx may apply. To receive an application, call the Borough President's office, 718-590-3914 or check on line at bronxboropres.nyc.gov.
- Community Board reappointment applications for terms expiring in 2010 were hand delivered to members in attendance at this meeting, others will be mailed.
- The Borough President's office received a number of calls from constituents disturbed over the removal of the Food Network and HGTV from Cablevision. Borough President Diaz stated that the loss of these networks seems to be a bad business move, especially given the number of emerging competitors. He added his hope for a quick resolve.
- During the holidays, Borough President Diaz sponsored giveaways of 6,000 turkeys, and 1,000 toys to the needy.
- The City Council voted down the development plan for the Kingsbridge Armory. It is reported that the Mayor will attempt to veto the vote, however the Council has a 2/3 vote for an override.
- Trinity Baptist Church and the Borough President extend an invitation to all to a Community Interfaith Service honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on January 18th at 10:00 AM. RSVP 718-590-3989.

With respect to Board appointments, Councilman Koppell advised that Board members seeking re-appointment should also send applications to him as well as to the Borough President since he has an allotment of eight appointments on the Board.

9. Chairman's Report

- Chairman asked that members of the Board comply with the meeting rules in the Guide to Parliamentary Procedure for NYC Community Boards requiring that members be recognized by the Chair prior to speaking.
- The Board treasurer will hold a **Public Meeting** on the **Board's Internal Budget** on **February 9th**, before the start of the regular Board meeting at **7:00 PM**. The meeting will provide an opportunity for members to review, and present questions, thereby gaining a greater understanding of the budget.
- Chairman called for a vote on a resolution deriving from the Executive Board Committee for the formation of an Information Technology Ad Hoc Committee. The following amended resolution was approved:

BE IT RESOLVED, that Bronx Community Board No. 8 approves the creation of an Information Technology Ad Hoc Exploratory Committee to explore, develop and implement technology to increase the visibility and effectiveness of the Board in achieving its Charter mandates. The primary focus will be on expanding the website and electronic outreach, both internally and externally.

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

In Favor-

R. Abbott, S. Alexander, B. Bender, A. P. Cassino, A. Cohen, W. S. Dolny, T. C. Durham, A. Fana, R. Fanuzzi, A. G. Feldmeier, B. Fettman, T. Giallorenzi, R. Ginty, A. Goldman, I. Ladimer, Y. Levy, S. Marquez, B. Maybury, D. McShane, C. G. Moerdler, D. Padernacht, K. Pesce, J. Pilsner, J. Reyes, S. Scheinbach, I. W. Stone, B. Trebach, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

Chairman advised that Ari Goldman will serve as chair, and Robert Fanuzzi and he will be members. Anyone with ideas is invited to be in touch with the committee.

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

An application from Delafield Estate has been received and is under review. It is not ready for referral to the Board.

11. Committee Reports

A. Law, Rules and Ethics – I. Ladimer

The Committee met and discussed several issues including: Committee public hearings. A method will be established with regard to notice. It was also concluded that references to “Board” in the bylaws does not always delineate “full Board.” The issue of management in Board office specifically regarding hirings and firings was discussed. A resolution was presented and it was decided that the “chair” is best person to handle such matters. The resolution will be reviewed at the next Executive Board Committee.

S. Villaverde stated that due to the threat of proposed community board budget cuts and steps that will be taken to deal with the deficit, he made a motion to establish that in the event a directive is received from the City to implement the cuts before the next full board meeting, that no action will be taken in that regard without full consultation with the Board.

B. Trebach made a motion to table the above motion in order to not place restrictions on the Chairman to act in a timely manner. Discussion ensued.

S. Villaverde withdrew the motion.

B. Education

S. Alexander reported on behalf of D. Bowden.

1. No January meeting.
2. The next meeting will be held on March 23rd, topic will be on Asthma in NYC school system.

C. Environment and Sanitation – S. Scheinbach

1. The Environmental Protection Agency opposes gas drilling in water system.
2. The Department of Environmental Protection states that drilling in water shed could contaminate water.
3. Croton Water Filtration Monitoring Committee will meet on January 14th.
4. The next Committee meeting will be held on January 19th. Guest speaker will be from the Department of Sanitation on the topic of recycling.
5. Participated in bird count event.

D. Health, Hospitals and Social Services – M. Khury

1. B. Maybury, board member and her colleague Nancy Pollock were guest speakers at the Committee meeting and discussed suicide prevention.
2. Reviewed a resolution on tobacco placed at children's eyelevel in stores.
3. Next meeting is February 17th.

E. Housing – T. Durham

1. Operation HOPE count of the homeless will be done in January.
2. Next meeting will cover the formulation of a resolution addressing illegal conversions.
3. Short notice on Public Hearing on Con Ed's rate hike. Notice dated January 7th received on January 11th for hearing on January 13th.

Councilman Koppell discussed proposed legislation he is co-sponsoring to deal with the Department of Buildings issue with inspections of complaints of illegal conversions. Complaints are dropped following two visits with no access.

F. Land Use – C. Moerdler

1. Met with City Planning Department before the start of the meeting and was briefed on the Delafield Estate application now under review by the Department.

2. The Committee will meet on January 14th to discuss 3469 Cannon Place proposal. C. Moerdler urged members to visit the site. Currently there are no plans. Questions will be drafted for the meeting.

G. Parks and Recreation – B. Bender

1. Committee did not meet in December.
2. The new grass at the parade grounds in Van Cortlandt Park is not knitting quickly enough, and therefore the grounds will not be available in the spring. Sports leagues are having difficulty finding alternate sites.
3. The next meeting will be held January 27th.

Councilman Koppell advised that he has allocated another \$800,000 for Sid Augarten ballfield.

H. Public Safety – A. G. Feldmeier

1. Refer to December minutes.
2. The Committee will meet jointly with Housing on January 25th.

I. Traffic and Transportation – A. P. Cassino

1. Alternate Side Parking changes are now in phase two with suspensions in Bronx Community Board 8 east of Broadway, as of January 14th. Areas along Broadway and west of Broadway were restored as of January 11th.
2. The last meeting drew a large turnout about a street naming request for the late father of Board member Dan Padernacht. The committee decided to stay with the existing rules and procedures of the Board's Guidelines and Procedures for Street Renaming and will not be able to take action for another two years following the death. The committee will therefore review it next year at this time.
3. A flyer is being circulated announcing the hearing on the "Pedestrian Street" closing on Johnson Avenue. Businesses will also be invited.
4. The Committee will discuss the MTA proposal regarding cancellation of student free passes.
5. BX 10 and 34 buses were spared from Mayoral budget cuts.
6. Next meeting is January 28th and one of the agenda topics will include "Riverfest" plans.

J. Aging – K. Pesce

The Committee will meet January 26th. Discussion will include Elder Abuse.

K. Economic Development – R. Fanuzzi

1. City Council passed "FRESH" legislation.

2. Thanked A. Goldman and Chairman McShane for moving forward with the Technology Ad Hoc Committee.
3. The next meeting will be held January 20th. There will be a speaker from Small Business Services.

Meeting adjourned 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Manning
Community Associate