

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
HELD ON MAY14th, 2019
AT P.S. 24, 660 WEST 236th STREET**

PRESENT: S. Alexander, B. Bender, L. Daub, E. Dinowitz, M. Donato, P. Ellis, D. Escano, R. Fanuzzi, S. Froot, D. Fuchs, R. Ginty, M. Gluck, J. Gomez, M. Goodman, E. Green, M. Joyce, D. Leverett, L. Lopez, R. P. Lowe, C. Moerdler, T. Moran, O. Murray, D. Padernacht, S. Paige, L. Parker, G. Santiago, I. W. Stone, J. Townes, S. Villaverde, C. Wilcox, M. Wolpoff, R. Zavras, H. Young

ABSENT: E. Bell, M. Della ,D. Gellman, D. B. Jackson, C.G. Mejia, P. Mullen, T. Pardo, K. Pesce, J. M. Reyes, L. Spalter

STAFF: C. Gannon – District Manager
D. Bay – Community Associate

Guests: Councilman A. Cohen, A. Toledo rep. Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, NYPD 50th precinct Captain Melendez, P.O. Ventura - NYPD 50th precinct, Santana Tavaréz – rep. Bronx District Attorney, Shantay Albright, Manager - Jerome Park Library, Jr., J. Stephenson – office of Councilman Cohen, B. Fitzpatrick – office of Assemblyman Dinowitz,, M. Gellman – rep. Senator Biaggi, P. Smyth, J. Hosford, M.E. Gibson, D. Caraballo, M. Gonzalez Buitrago – Kingsbridge Library, C. Rodriguez, R. Ackerson, E. Baez, A. Warner, D. Ranells, H. Wood, D. Beller – U.S. Census, N. dela Cruz, M. Heller, A. Giagrandre, D. Gutierrez – P.S. 81, A. Levi,, M. Esema, J. Catalano, P. Hagemeyer, D. Clume, J. Wood, R. Rubenstein, B. Morgenstern, D. Wetter

Chair Ginty convened the meeting at 7:15 P.M.

Presentation of the Comeback Kid Certificate of Recognition – L. Parker

This award was created to acknowledge students who have overcome challenges and demonstrated improvement, over a period of time. It is our belief that by recognizing our student participants in committed community centers, we can in some small way reward those youth who are working hard to improve their future and inspire others to follow their example.

This year's recipient of the award is Elijah Umeh. He is a Junior at John F. Kennedy High School.

Irving Ladimer Community Service Award Presentations – E. Dinowitz, M. Goodman, D. Leverett, S. Paige

The Irving Ladimer Community Service Award was established to acknowledge the many volunteer efforts of groups and individuals within our community. It is the Board's belief that by recognizing our committed community volunteers, we can in some small way reward those most deserving and inspire others to follow their example.

Irving Ladimer was a board member since the 1980's until his passing on July 3rd, 2018 at the age of 102. He dedicated his life to civic engagement and working to the benefit of people with disabilities, and the health and welfare of people of all ages. He left the world a better place than he found it.

This year's recipients of the award are The Stewards of Brust Park for their on-going volunteer activities to preserve and beautify Brust Park, Mr. David Wetter for his on-going volunteer work with the residents of the Hebrew Home in Riverdale, Ms. Blanche Morgenstern for more than thirty years of volunteer services at the Riverdale Senior Services Center and Mr. Robert Rubenstein for his leadership as a community board member, in the founding of a senior service center in our community and for many years of legal services working with Irving Ladimer to achieve needed benefits for the elderly, the disabled, and so many local community residents.

1. Gallery Session

- Joshua Stephenson announced the DSNY Safe Disposal Day – Sunday, June 23rd from 10am to 2pm at Adam Chandler Park (parking lot)
- Doris Gutierrez of PS 81 Parents Association spoke of their need for safety improvements in their school. They attended the Education, Libraries & Cultural Affairs meeting in April (see minutes). The Parents Association is planning to contact the elected officials to support them in this endeavor.
- D. Beller of the U.S. Census Bureau noted that the Bronx Borough President created the “Bronx 2020 Census Complete Count Committee.” The committee will work on turnout to ensure that Bronx residents participate. To get involved sign up at <https://bit.ly/2Wh11FM>
- S. Allbright, new Library Manager of Jerome Park Library introduced herself and announced some programs that are available.
- M. Gelman reported that Senator Biaggi will open an office at W 231st Street and Riverdale Avenue in the next few weeks and their mobile office is on the first Tuesday of every month at Riverdale Senior Services. Walk-in hours 11am-4pm; appointments available between 10am and 5pm.

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

- Community Board members who have submitted a reappointment application will receive a response shortly.
- New applicants will receive a letter from the Borough President regarding appointments in June.
- Board members were acknowledged for attending the Community Board Member Appreciation Night.
- Bronx Week ends with a parade on Sunday, May 19 from noon to 6pm on Mosholu Parkway between Van Cortlandt Avenue East and Bainbridge Avenue.

3. Report from the 50th Police Precinct – Captain Melendez

- Grand larceny crimes are up. Recommended locking car doors and tracking packages that are being delivered.
- Senior citizen robo call scams have risen.
- Robbery, felony assaults and burglaries are down.
- Out of 157 crimes committed this year there were 24 arrests. Arrests do not always result in convictions but with the District Attorney's new top 10 recidivist list helps convict criminals.
- Police do not chase people that are speeding but they can be monitored and stopped at a different location.
- Locations of Illegally parked cars and double parked delivery trucks should be reported to the 50th precinct.

4. Chair's Report – R. Ginty

- Chair Ginty thanked the committee for the Comeback Kid Award and the Committee of the Irving Ladimer Community Service Award for their input in selecting nominees.
- At the Community Board Member appreciation night Women Chairs of the Community Boards were honored.
- After providing tickets to the Broadway shelter, 40 kids with perfect attendance and their chaperones were given tickets. They thanked the Community Board by sending self-made handwritten thank you notes which were passed around.

5. Treasurer's report – R. Zavras

- The Treasurer gave an extensive detailed Treasurer's report that was previously distributed.

The following resolution was presented:

WHEREAS, the Treasurer and the District Manager of Bronx Community Board 8 prepared an operating budget for the Board's expenses for Fiscal Year 2019 and Fiscal Year 2020.

WHEREAS, in support of the office to manage these budgets, budget modifications have been prepared and are attached to the May Treasurer's Report.

BE IT RESOLVED, Community Board 8 approves the operating budgets and the modifications to support them.

Vote: In Favor: 31 Opposed: 0 Abstentions:

S. Alexander, B. Bender, L. Daub, E. Dinowitz, M. Donato, P. Ellis, D. Escano, R. Fanuzzi, S. Froot, D. Fuchs, R. Ginty, M. Gluck, J. Gomez, M. Goodman, E. Green, M. Joyce, D. Leverett, L. Lopez, C. Moerdler, R. P. Lowe, T. Moran, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, G. Santiago, I. W. Stone, J. Townes, S. Villaverde, C. Wilcox, M. Wolpoff, R. Zavras, H. Young

Chair Ginty welcomed Councilman Cohen to address the board

- Thanked board members for their work regarding the proposed Ekawa substance abuse clinic.
- Suggested by C. Moerdler, Councilman Cohen introduced a bill that would require a developer to notify the owner of any bridge nearby of their development.
- The Councilman sent a letter to City Planning concerning the Special Natural Area District (SNAD). He will keep the board updated. Chair Ginty noted that the board is greatly appreciative for his input.
- A report on the city budget is forthcoming
- There was a groundbreaking ceremony for new ball fields at Seton Park attended by elected officials and Chair Ginty that was funded by Councilman Cohen and previous State Senator Klein.
- Testified recently about the Charter Revision Commission.
- The headshop on Riverdale Avenue is closed after resistance from residents.
- A group home at Villanova Estates seems to be in accordance with the zoning laws. C. Moerdler reported that District Manager C. Gannon, discovered that they do not have the proper CO. This is ongoing and will be studied. This development is also in the vicinity of the Ittleson School.

6. District Manager's Report

- Board members were asked to volunteer at Riverfest and to inform the board office by Friday, May 24th.
- Our website has been updated. Suggestions/concerns by board members are welcomed.
- The Leventhal Agreement was discussed at the Bronx Borough Board meeting. This agreement specifies agency responsibilities for stepstreets. There will be another follow up discussion at a future Borough Board meeting.
- RSVP to Women's Suffrage event being held by the Education, Libraries & Cultural Affairs Committee.
- SNAD zoning text amendment was sent out and is on our website.
- Completely renovated 229th step street is now open.

7. City Planning – No City Planning representative was present

8. Committee Reports

A. Housing – D. Leverett – Vice Chair

- There is no meeting this month due to the Memorial Day Holiday.

- Housing Committee forum is postponed until the fall.

B. Land Use – C.G. Moerdler

- June 3rd is the ULURP Public Hearing on SNAD. Please read the zoning text amendment that was forwarded to board members and is also on the website. The district information begins on page 47. Please read it before voting at the Land Use meeting. The final vote will be at the board meeting on June 27th.
- There is a significant construction issue near Brust Park. There is an upcoming meeting between the developer and the residents. The developer has been asked to hold off on the demolition of this building. Chair Ginty reviewed maps in regards to this development. This will be on an upcoming agenda.

C. Law, Rules and Ethics – M. Wolpoff

- The Charter Revision report summary was sent to members of the board. M. Wolpoff recommends committees review the documents and develop responses, as appropriate.

The following resolution requires 2 votes; the first vote was in April, 2019:

- ❖ Whereas Bronx Community Board No. 8 has seen the need to maintain a Land Use Committee as a standing committee, the following is offered by the Law, Rules & Ethics Committee for a change in the bylaws:

Therefore Be It Resolved the current language in the bylaws concerning the land use committee as a committee of a whole is hereby removed and replaced by:

Land Use Committee – The membership of the Land Use Committee shall be limited to Appointed Board Members.

Please note that the following language in the bylaws is to be removed:

1. Land Use Committee – The membership of the Land Use Committee shall be limited to Appointed Board Members. Those Board Members who join the Committee shall be subject to the rules which require regular attendance at meetings as a basis for continuing membership. Nevertheless, any member of the Board shall have the right to participate in a vote held by the Land Use Committee, provided such a vote is held on a substantive matter following a hearing at which members of the public have spoken, and provided further that such Board Members were present at the hearing.

To the extent permitted by the City Charter and other applicable laws, the Land Use Committee shall be authorized to speak for and on behalf of the full Board, following, and pursuant to, a Land Use Committee vote on an issue as to which there is a time limit for Board response to a City agency, providing the following conditions have been met:

1. All Board Members have received notice of the Land Use Committee meeting and such notice has included language indicating that the full Board may not have an opportunity to timely vote on the issue and that the Committee decision may therefore constitute the Board's position;
2. The mandated time limit for Board input to the relevant City agency will expire between the date of the Land Use Committee vote and the date of the next regularly scheduled Board meeting; and
3. The Board Chairperson has informed the Land Use Committee Chair, by the date of the Land Use Committee vote that no special Board meeting will be called to consider the issue, and the participants in the Committee meeting are made aware of this information prior to the Committee vote.

Vote: In Favor: 30

Opposed: 0

Abstentions: 1

S. Alexander, B. Bender, L. Daub, E. Dinowitz, M. Donato, P. Ellis, D. Escano, R. Fanuzzi, S. Froot, D. Fuchs, R. Ginty, M. Gluck, J. Gomez, M. Goodman, E. Green, M. Joyce, D. Leverett, L. Lopez, R. P. Lowe, T. Moran, O. Murray, D. Padernacht, G. Santiago, I. W. Stone, J. Townes, S. Villaverde, C. Wilcox, M. Wolpoff, R. Zavras, H. Young

Abstention: C. Moerdler

- Chair Ginty noted that board members will now need to sign up for it in June when choosing their committees. It will now count as one of your 2 required committees.
- M. Wolpoff commented about a letter sent by O. Murray, the Health, Hospitals and Social Services Chair regarding the proposed EKAWA outpatient substance abuse clinic. O. Murray noted that he consulted with his Committee and they agreed to send this letter. M. Wolpoff provided a chronology to demonstrate that he notified the Board Office and its leadership in the week following his becoming aware of EKAWA's intent to develop a site. He was also concerned that the Board needed to research whether opioid addiction rehab was a service needed in the Board 8 area. M. Wolpoff and C. Moerdler commented that the forwarding of a letter should have been brought before the board, as a resolution voted in public.

Chair ruled subsequent comments out-of-order

D. Parks & Recreation – B. Bender

The following resolution was presented:

Whereas New Yorkers for Parks is an independent non-profit advocacy group for New York City parks; and

Whereas New Yorkers for Parks has embarked on a campaign for increased funding of city parks called the Play Fair for Parks Coalition; and

Whereas 120 community groups have endorsed this campaign; and

Whereas 14% of all New York City land is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Parks & Recreation (DPR); and

Whereas this campaign calls for an increase in funding of \$100 million for city parks, which would increase the portion of the city budget dedicated to parks from 0.59% to 0.69%; and

Whereas spending for maintenance and operations in city parks has decreased as percentage of the city budget for the past two years; and

Whereas this funding would permit baselining of positions for gardeners, PEP officers, fixed-post permanent staff in individual parks citywide, a maintenance and conservation program for natural forests under the supervision of DPR's Natural Resources Group, better community gardens, increased playground programming, and other basic programs essential to the maintenance and operation of city parks; and

Whereas inadequate maintenance is the number-one complaint about parks in Bronx Community Board 8;

Therefore, Be It Resolved that Bronx Community Board 8 endorses and supports the Play Fair for Parks campaign and urges our City Council representatives and other elected officials to advocate for increased funding for New York City parks.

In favor:

Vote: In Favor: 30

Opposed: 0

Abstentions: 1

S. Alexander, B. Bender, L. Daub, E. Dinowitz, M. Donato, P. Ellis, D. Escano, R. Fanuzzi, S. Froot, D. Fuchs, R. Ginty, M. Gluck, J. Gomez, M. Goodman, E. Green, M. Joyce, D. Leverett, L. Lopez, R. P. Lowe, T. Moran,

O. Murray, D. Padernacht, G. Santiago, I. W. Stone, J. Townes, S. Villaverde, C. Wilcox, M. Wolpoff, R. Zavras, H. Young

Abstention: C. Moerdler

- The Friends of Van Cortlandt Park and the Van Cortlandt Park Conservancy merged and are now called the Van Cortlandt Park Alliance. They will speak about this merger at the May 22nd Parks & Recreation Committee meeting.
- R. Lowe noted that the Boy Scouts and Eagle Scouts are always willing to help clean in the Parks.

E. Public Safety – M. Donato

The following resolutions were presented:

❖ **New Application Liquor License or Beer/Wine License**

Whereas, Game Day Sports Bar, 5757 Broadway appeared before the Public Safety Committee on April 16, 2019 for a new liquor license. They signed an agreement to a 2AM closing for the first year in business.

Whereas, the committee voted to approve the application.

Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Public Safety Approves this application.

- ❖ Whereas, Greek Express, 3733 Riverdale Avenue appeared before the Public Safety Committee on April 16, 2019 for a new wine/beer/cider license.

Whereas, the committee voted to approve the application.

Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Public Safety Approves this application.

Renewal Applications Liquor or Beer/Wine/Cider License

- ❖ Whereas, Tortoise & Hare, 6115 Broadway appeared before the Public Safety Committee on April 16, 2019 for a renewal and their liquor license. No issues at this location.

Whereas, the committee voted to approve the application.

Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Public Safety Approves this application.

- ❖ Whereas, Bronx Alehouse, 216 West 238th Street appeared before the Public Safety Committee on April 16, 2019 for a renewal and their liquor license. No issues at this location.

Whereas, the committee voted to approve the application.

Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Public Safety Approves this application.

The following vote was for the (4) applications above:

Vote: In Favor: 31 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0

S. Alexander, B. Bender, L. Daub, E. Dinowitz, M. Donato, P. Ellis, D. Escano, R. Fanuzzi, S. Froot, D. Fuchs, R. Ginty, M. Gluck, J. Gomez, M. Goodman, E. Green, M. Joyce, D. Leverett, L. Lopez, R. P. Lowe, C. Moerdler, T. Moran, O. Murray, D. Padernacht, G. Santiago, I. W. Stone, J. Townes, S. Villaverde, C. Wilcox, M. Wolpoff, R. Zavras, H. Young

The following vote was to amend the agenda to add a resolution regarding Yukka Latin Bistro, 5684 Riverdale Avenue:

Vote: In Favor: 31 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0

S. Alexander, B. Bender, L. Daub, E. Dinowitz, M. Donato, P. Ellis, D. Escano, R. Fanuzzi, S. Froot, D. Fuchs, R. Ginty, M. Gluck, J. Gomez, M. Goodman, E. Green, M. Joyce, D. Leverett, L. Lopez, R. P. Lowe, C. Moerdler, T. Moran, O. Murray, D. Padernacht, G. Santiago, I. W. Stone, J. Townes, S. Villaverde, C. Wilcox, M. Wolpoff, R. Zavras, H. Young

The following resolution was presented:

- ❖ **WHEREAS**, Yukka Latin Bistro, 5684 Riverdale Avenue appeared before the Public Safety Committee on April 16, 2019 for a corporate change. The committee did not vote due to lack of paperwork which the board office received afterwards. No issues at this location.

Vote: In Favor: 31 Opposed: 0 Abstentions: 0

S. Alexander, B. Bender, L. Daub, E. Dinowitz, M. Donato, P. Ellis, D. Escano, R. Fanuzzi, S. Froot, D. Fuchs, R. Ginty, M. Gluck, J. Gomez, M. Goodman, E. Green, M. Joyce, D. Leverett, L. Lopez, R. P. Lowe, C. Moerdler, T. Moran, O. Murray, D. Padernacht, G. Santiago, I. W. Stone, J. Townes, S. Villaverde, C. Wilcox, M. Wolpoff, R. Zavras, H. Young

F. Special Committee on the Greenway – B. Bender

- A meeting will be held on Thursday, June 13th.

G. Special Committee for Veteran Services – S. Villaverde

- Communicated with the ROTC unit.
- Volunteer opportunity and the VA Hospital – Spend time with Veterans who do not have families.

H. Traffic & Transportation – D. Padernacht

The following resolution was presented:

WHEREAS, the Fieldston Property Owners Association and the Horace Mann School have requested that the parking regulations on West 244th Street between Waldo Avenue and Tibbett Avenue be changed to No Parking on School Days between 2pm and 4pm to accommodate the drop-off and pick-up of students at Horace Mann Lower School;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Bronx Community Board 8 requests that NYC DOT change the parking regulations on the south side of West 244th Street between Waldo Avenue and Tibbett Avenue to No Parking on School Days between 2pm and 4pm; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, Bronx Community Board 8 requests that NYC DOT install No Idling signs on the south side of West 244th Street between Waldo Avenue and Tibbett Avenue in connection with the requested changes to No Parking on School Days between 2pm and 4pm.

Vote: In Favor: 30 Opposed: 1 Abstentions: 0

In favor: S. Alexander, B. Bender, L. Daub, E. Dinowitz, M. Donato, P. Ellis, D. Escano, R. Fanuzzi, S. Froot, D. Fuchs, R. Ginty, M. Gluck, J. Gomez, M. Goodman, E. Green, M. Joyce, D. Leverett, L. Lopez, R. P. Lowe, C. Moerdler, T. Moran, O. Murray, D. Padernacht, G. Santiago, I. W. Stone, J. Townes, S. Villaverde, C. Wilcox, M. Wolpoff, R. Zavras, H. Young

Opposed: D. Escano

- A new gas line is being installed on Mosholu Avenue between West 254 and 256 Street. No street closures are scheduled but there will be parking restrictions from May 13th thru August, 2019. This will be monitored. Neighbors have been notified.
- DDC will continue their work in the South Riverdale portion of the district until November.
- Con Ed has to maintain trench work for 6 months. If it needs further road work repair DOT is responsible.
- T&T Bicycle Safety Event is on June 23rd. Highlights are: bike safety and training lessons, NYPD bike inscriptions and 60 helmet giveaways by the Department of Transportation.

I. Youth – Vice Chair - D. Fuchs

- The next meeting is May 23rd, 7:30PM, at Ft. Independence Community Center.

J. Aging – E. Dinowitz

- Next meeting is on May 21 at 4PM in the board office.
- The Aging Committee and the Youth Committee are holding an event called Celebrating our Generations on June 2nd, 12PM at the Riverdale Neighborhood House

K. Budget – Chair not present – No report

L. Economic Development – S. Villaverde

- There will be a meeting Thursday, May 30th in the 242nd Street area.

M. Education, Libraries & Cultural Affairs – S. Alexander

- Refer to minutes.
- The PS 81 parents who spoke at the gallery session with school safety concerns still need to talk to the Principal and parents at the school before appearing for an interview.
- Women's Suffrage Event will be held on May 19th at Wave Hill from 4-6pm. Gates are open at 3:30. Invites were sent to the community board members and the public with parking instructions. Please sign up and support this free event.

N. Environment & Sanitation – R. Fanuzzi

- DEP is interested in a property policy priority of CSX in connection to the Daylighting at Tibbets Brook. DEP is doing a feasibility study which was announced at the Long Term Control Plan meeting.
- CSX is planning to sell a piece of their land in Bronx CB7. This is being followed closely.
- Please report flooding areas to 311 and the committee.
- Thanked DSNY for cleaning up garbage that was dumped near West 254th Street.
- The next meeting is on Monday, June 17th at Amalgamated Houses, Vladeck Hall.

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

- Refer to minutes.
- There is no May meeting.
- The June meeting will include speakers on Domestic Violence.

9. Discussion of Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of May 1, 2019

- None.

10. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes of April 9th, 2019

Vote: In favor - 31 Opposed – 0 Abstentions – 0

- S. Alexander, B. Bender, L. Daub, E. Dinowitz, M. Donato, P. Ellis, D. Escano, R. Fanuzzi, S. Froot, D. Fuchs, R. Ginty, M. Gluck, J. Gomez, M. Goodman, E. Green, M. Joyce, D. Leverett, L. Lopez, R. P. Lowe, C. G. Moerdler, T. Moran, O. Murray, D. Padernacht, G. Santiago, I. W. Stone, J. Townes, S. Villaverde, C. Wilcox, M. Wolpoff, R. Zavras, H. Young
- C. Moerdler brought up the issue of flooding due to lack of sewer outlets on private streets.

11. Miscellaneous Business

The District Manager apologized for the microphone issue tonight despite her efforts to successfully set the meeting up earlier in the day.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Submitted by,

Diane Bay
Community Associate

Reviewed by Lisa Daub, Secretary