

**COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8**

**MINUTES OF THE  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON APRIL 30, 2009 AT THE ELISA TUCCI GALLERY  
5622 MOSHOLU AVENUE**

**PRESENT**

Robert Fanuzzi  
Juan Goris  
Robert Abbott  
Thomas Giallorenzi  
Bridget Maybury  
Martin Wolpoff  
Marjorie Borell  
Lisa Cooper  
Joseph Lizarazo  
Nestor Reyes  
Abraham Zamcheck

**AFFILIATION**

Committee Chair  
Committee Vice-Chair  
CB #8  
CB #8  
CB #8  
CB #8  
Sotheby's  
Elisa Tucci Contemporary Art  
First Investors Corporation  
B.O.E.D.C.  
rep. Senator Jeffrey Klein

I. Chair's report

- A. The chair thanked the owners of Hunan Balcony, Theresa Su, for opening her restaurant to and underwriting the cost of feeding classes from Public School 24 as part of its Lunar New Year celebration.
- B. On May 1, a Job Search Expo is being held at the Bronx Library Center, 310 East Kingsbridge Road.
- C. The chair met with Fern Jaffe, owner of the Paperbacks Plus site, at her request to learn about community priorities for filing the vacancy.
- D. The chair met with a group of community leaders, Liz Bowen and Hilary Baum of Food Systems Network, Sarah Sikh and Aileen Jones of Schervier Houses, Dan Eudene of Riverdale Neighborhood House, Tom Strumolo of Greenmarkets and Nicole Stent to help organize the upcoming Youth Market for Summer 2009. The group organized itself as the "Youth Market Committee" and will be responsible for making the community contacts and government arrangements necessary to make the market a success.
- E. Greenmarkets will be opening a Youth Market in Bronx Community Board No. 8 this summer at a site of their choosing, the NE corner of Broadway and West 225<sup>th</sup> Street, at the junction of West 225<sup>th</sup> Street subway, the 9 and the 7 buses. This location meets the standards of foot traffic for a successful farmers market. According to Tom Strumolo, Greenmarkets would be willing to "transition" the Youth Market into a full fledged Greenmarket with time and evidence of community support.

- II. Vice Chair's report
  - A. Mr. Juan Goris is preparing a report on the commercial rental rates in the district so that committee can determine whether local landlords' asking prices are in line with the market.
- III. Budget Priorities (expense);
  - A. Funding through Small Business Services for local office of Workforce One, job training contractor
  - B. Funding through Small Business Services for local office of NYC Business Solutions, entrepreneurial training and small business resource contractor
- IV. Guest Speaker: Lisa Cooper, owner Elisa Tucci Gallery
  - Ms. Cooper shared her experiences starting a new business in North Riverdale and attempting to organize local merchants. She spoke of great potential for the arts businesses in the area and of challenges in organizing promotional events. One of her goals is to hold a street fair on the Mosholu Avenue that would bring attention to the unique retail opportunities in North Riverdale.
    - ⇒ R. Fanuzzi suggested that Ms. Cooper enlist interested merchants of Mosholu Avenue and Riverdale Avenue in organizing a merchants association. Mr. Abraham Zamcheck offered to lend the help of Senator Jeff Klein's office.
    - ⇒ Ms. Majorie Borell suggested that a street fair or promotional event make sure of pedicabs to ensure news coverage.
    - ⇒ R. Fanuzzi proposed that community groups, such as REV, join the merchant organized street fair as vendors.
    - ⇒ Mr. Nestor Reyes of BOEDC suggested that a merchant association ask local branches of banks for community grants or assistance in funding a street fair.

Ms. Cooper also spoke of the special potential for arts organizations and businesses in the Bronx Community Board 8 area. Using the example of the economic development policies of the Bronx Council of the Arts, the committee discussed ways to make the "creative economy" part of the economic growth of Bronx Community Board 8 in general and Riverdale Avenue in particular.

- ⇒ R. Abbott noted the calendar of Brio events being held in Community Board 8.
- ⇒ R. Fanuzzi presented "Bronx 360", a publication of arts and cultural events, and the "Creative Bronx! Black Book, a directory of arts-related businesses, as resources for local businesses.
- ⇒ J. Goris described the need for marketing local businesses within the Bronx Community Board 8 area.
- ⇒ R. Fanuzzi described a program run by the non-profit group Chasama that gives local arts groups exhibition and studio space

in vacant buildings. In exchange for donating the rent of the vacant storefront, Chasama supplies the insurance, utility and renovation costs for a short term lease. M. Wolpoff described the recent exhibitions of the Riverdale Arts Association, and it was suggested that the Community Board approach a landlord on Riverdale Avenue that might not want a long-term lease but would be willing to donate the space to an arts organization for the purpose of energizing the street and building interest in the site. R. Abbott suggested that with the closure of the building used for its Family Arts Project, Wave Hill might be interested in a "satellite location," much as MOMA used a Queens vacant building during its restoration.

V. New Business

- A. Ms. Marjorie Borell of the Greater Riverdale Chamber of Commerce announced that the group will be holding a reception on May 7<sup>th</sup> from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Madison's Restaurant to describe programs, benefits, and plans.
- B. Mr. Anthony Lizarazo of First Investors announced a community program for helping business owners refinance or reorganize their business plan.
- C. R. Fanuzzi brought to the attention of the committee an old proposal by a former business association to alter the parking pattern on Riverdale Avenue to allow diagonal parking. M. Borell offered to survey the local business owners on Riverdale Avenue to see if there was sufficient support for this change.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Fanuzzi  
Chairman  
Economic Development Committee

RF:db