

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES
HELD ON APRIL 1, 2020
VIDEO CONFERENCE**

Committee Members Present (15)

Rosemary Ginty, Chair	Margaret Donato	Omar Murray
Sylvia Alexander	Robert Fanuzzi	Dan Padernacht
Bob Bender	David Gellman	Laura Spalter
Lisa Daub	Julia Gomez	Sergio Villaverde
Eric Dinowitz	Charles Moerdler	Rosalind Zavras

Committee Members Absent (2)

Daris Jackson	Martin Wolpoff
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Staff (2)

Ciara Gannon, District Manager	Tania Ochoteco, Community Coordinator
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CB8 & Guests

Steve Froot - CB8, Mariel De La Cruz - NYC Comptroller's Office, Kirstyn Brendlen - Riverdale Press and other members of the community

Chair Ginty convened the meeting at 7:30pm, welcomed all with wishes for everyone to stay safe.

Minutes

- Minutes of February 5, 2020 Executive Committee approved as amended with one correction: In Favor (11): Alexander, Daub, Dinowitz, Donato, Fanuzzi, Gellman, Ginty, Moerdler, Padernacht, Spalter, Zavras // Opposed: (0), Abstain (0)

Chair's Report – R. Ginty

- We are holding meetings using Zoom video conference. Staff will assist members with Zoom set-up, if needed. To allow virtual meetings, the Governor suspended certain aspects of the Open Meetings Law through April 15th (may be extended). We are still required to have a quorum for voting and to produce minutes.
- June board meeting will be on June 9th, as normally scheduled.
- April meeting will include the nominating committee vote. Although more complex via virtual meetings, we are trying to keep our work going as best as possible. See DM report.
- Reminder to complete US Census by this evening.

Treasurer's Report – R. Zavras

- Treasurer shared this month's report showing that we are still positioned well for the fiscal year.
- We have a budget modification to reallocate special funding by object code for office needs as well as moving funds out of postage. District Manager noted that the 42.5k special funding will not be repeated next FY so we need to get necessities this year. The office is in need of upgraded computer and laptop for Windows 10, office security system and a speaker system with voice recorder for in-person meetings. Chair added if there are funds remaining after committee and tech

needs, we will replace some old office furnishings as we did last year. All expenditures must be fully paid for this fiscal year, not just encumbered.

District Manager's Report – C. Gannon

- Office is now working from home after filing required work plan with BP's office and approval by Chair. Office phones routed to staff's computers and staff meetings are held virtually at least twice/day. It is working well. Thanks to all for patience.
- ULURP suspended since March 16th with weekly reviews. Landmarks preservation on hold. SLA is reviewing policies but as of now there are no changes.
- Hosted a Zoom practice meeting for Executive committee and will host a practice for board members next Wednesday. Other agencies and elected officials are using this platform.
- Nominating committee election process at April board meeting: Use chat option to privately send votes to board secretary, Lisa Daub, who will tabulate. All chats will be saved. This will be part of board's practice session on Wednesday.
- Attended conference call with Congressman Espaillat, medical professionals and other officials re Corona virus. Reminded everyone to fill out US census.
- Senator Biaggi held virtual meeting with Bronx DMs and CB Chairs. She asked Mayor to pay for platinum level Zoom subscription for all CBs. Manhattan BP is providing this to their borough's boards. [to expedite our meetings, DM Gannon paid for CB8's subscription]. Also, Senator's office will be preparing a list of all resources for seniors in her district.
- Attended call with BP's office. Some concerns raised that drive-through testing site at Lehman is not accessible for people who don't have a car. Call 311 for testing sites. O. Murray added that people with symptoms must first call 311 for initial screening, followed by DOH screening for symptoms. People cannot go for testing without an appointment. Discussed available statistics.
- The office is receiving a lot of information and distributing it as appropriate to committee chairs, merchant groups, Facebook postings (over 1200 followers). Distributed our newsletter by email today to 1,000+ people. Please reach out to people to sign-up for newsletter and follow on FB.
- Yankees sent out checks and certificates to recipients of Youth Leadership Awards, although there will not be a ceremony this year. DM contacted CB8 youth awardees who were thrilled as the funds will help them and their families.
- Comptroller's office is working on scheduling a virtual town hall to address constituent concerns.

Committee Resolutions

Chair Ginty called for committee resolutions to be presented at the April Board meeting:

- Public Safety – M. Donato
License renewals approved by committee (5) – Caridad Restaurant, Van Cortlandt Park Golf Course, Tin Marin, Jay's Place, Blackstone
- Education, Libraries, Cultural Affairs – S. Alexander
SAPO events have not been cancelled as of now, but the board and committees will continue its work as applications are presented. SAPO's approved by committee (2): Israeli Independence Day festival on April 29th sponsored by the Bronx BP and the Kingsbridge Heights Community Center on May 2nd. SAPO for Northeast Bronx Daycare Center on May 2nd was tabled while awaiting information.
- Traffic & Transportation – D. Padernacht
Two street co-naming resolutions will be presented for the required second vote: "Villa Rosa Bonheur Terrace" and "John J. McKelvey, Sr.". The committee approved Security Bollard Plan application by the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale which proposes to install steel security bollards

around its entrance at 3700 Henry Hudson Parkway. Discussed neighbor notifications and agency guidelines.

Issues for Discussion

- D. Gellman – Chairs should review the distributed FY22 budget documents and prioritize requests at this month's committee meetings. Important to keep requests in the distributed format.
- B. Bender – (a) Playgrounds throughout NYC will close tomorrow to help control virus spread, (b) The planned Living History Day elementary school event is cancelled. In lieu, the Parks committee is looking into support for an Enslaved People Project lesson plan and study guide. The Treasurer and DM can provide procurement guidance to help facilitate the revised special funding project.
- R. Fanuzzi – Provided update on DEP plans for the Jerome Park Reservoir, as described in February minutes. Will prepare and send letter request for a DEP narrative accounting. Also pointed out that the city's budget is in trouble and to consider this in FY22 budget requests.
- S. Villaverde – Thanked office for pushing out information to merchant groups and on FB.
- M. Donato – Like last year, committee is reaching out to bars and restaurants with SLA renewals coming due to submit them for committee and board approval prior to summer recess. Also gaining input from 50th pct. The board is also being proactive on sidewalk café renewals and SAPO's.
- D. Padernacht – (a) Asked S. Villaverde for the CARE act loan lenders to share info with merchants [S. Villaverde not present to reply]. L. Spalter noted that CM Rodriguez is hosting a town hall meeting this Friday for small businesses, highlighting available financial assistance. Office notified merchant groups and put on FB. (b) Noted mail delivery problems in 10463. Chair said that delivery resumed today but of course this could change.
- D. Gellman – Requested info on digital traffic design that was presented March 18th. D. Padernacht noted that a working group came up with re-design ideas. Chair Ginty stated that we followed the CB8 Procurement Guidelines, a vendor was selected and produced renderings. Chair Ginty noted the importance of working groups that report back to committees and the board. Working groups make no final decisions. D. Gellman and D. Padernacht agreed to discuss their concern regarding the composition of the working group.
- R. Zavras noted that she received good feedback on the Procurement Guide from committee chairs and she is preparing templates to support the process. R. Ginty highlighted that if a chair requests funding, it is the chair's responsibility, not the office's, to prepare the scope of work and complete some other tasks.

Follow-up on Outstanding Issues - None

After confirming committee members' attendance, meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm

Submitted by Lisa Daub, Secretary