

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES  
HELD ON MARCH 6, 2019  
BOARD OFFICE – 5676 RIVERDALE AVENUE**

**Committee Members Present (14)**

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

**Committee Members Absent (3)**

Daris Jackson	Charles Moerdler	Lamont Parker
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**Staff**

Ciara Gannon, District Manager

**Other CB8 and Guests**

Luis Lopez, CB8	Zak Kostro
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Chair Ginty convened the meeting at 7:30pm

**Minutes**

Minutes of February 6, 2018 meeting approved with minor edit:

In Favor: Ginty, Alexander, Bender, Daub, Donato, Gellman, Spalter, Wolpoff, Villaverde

Opposed: 0, Abstain: 1 Padernacht

**Chairperson's Report**

- The Borough President's office is now hosting quarterly meetings with CB Chairs. Most recent meeting, hosted by Deputy Borough President, covered several topics, including:
  - Gave strict warning that CBs must post minutes within 2 weeks of all meetings
  - Sexual harassment training is required of CBs annually - new training starts in May
  - Law requires respecting an individual's self-identified preferred pronoun. LGBTQ training is required for city workers and public-facing personnel.
  - Until end of this fiscal year, funds are available for CBs and non-profits to rent space in city schools for meetings/events. See DM for information
- Chairs and DMs from all CBs within senate district met with Senator Biaggi (see DM report).
- Chair Ginty attended Board of Standards & Appeals (BSA) executive session and C. Moerdler (as counsel) and L. Spalter presented at hearing regarding variances for proposed 5278 Post Road development. The commissioners saw many faults in the application. Applicants may reapply with a new plan by May for a June 11<sup>th</sup> hearing.
- Chair Ginty testified along with other CBs at NYC Committee on Governmental Operations meeting chaired by CM Cabrera regarding use of special 42.5k CB funding and requesting funding be continued for FY 2020.
- Nominating Committee will be elected in April.

## PENDING COMMITTEE APPROVAL

- The Irving Ladimer Community Service Awards and Yankee Youth Leadership Awards will be presented in May.
- The final response to the multi-item FOIL request was sent to the Riverdale Press on March 1<sup>st</sup>. The Chair and DM spent **over 120 hours** researching and submitting **over 365 pages**. DoITT also spent a significant number of hours solving tech issues to enable response plus additional hours spent by BPs office:
  - Responded timely to questions 1-6
  - Question 7 required review of Chair's two email accounts of all correspondence that included former Treasurer over 9 months in 2018. City email account archives at six months and retrieval was hindered repeatedly with tech error messages. DoITT put in extraordinary efforts to fix the problem, calling in special teams including hardware diagnostics. Accomplished task through special workarounds. Question 7 took six weeks of efforts. Chair will send DoITT a letter of appreciation for going above and beyond.
  - Question 8 requested very detailed reports of all financial expenditures over 3 fiscal years. The office did not have these reports. Prior Treasurer resigned between an initial inquiry and prior to this FOIL. DM needed special permission from FISA to access city's system and then needed a password and attend training (first available class in Feb).
  - Committee members voiced their dismay at the expansive FOIL and wasted resources to respond (no "push button" task) and thanked the Chair and DM for their efforts.

## Treasurers Report

- R. Zavras presented the Treasurer's Report(s). OMB processed the budget modification presented last month in order to pay pending invoices. Since February's board meeting was cancelled due to weather, in March we will vote post-fact on the budget mod, as well as an additional modification to reclassify some funds by object code. This will be last major budget modification. The challenge was including funding for bills from last year as well as current bills. Future budget modifications will be limited to OTPS.
- Chair thanked Treasurer and all members for their hard work

## District Manager's Report

- Chair, VC and DM attended Senator Biaggi's meeting and with little time to prepare, presented CB8 issues and priorities, including over-development, SNAD, Broadway corridor & DOT, CSX/Tibbets daylighting, HR Greenway and domestic violence. Senator acknowledged our need to relocate office to district's center; She is hosting weekly office hours at various sites for similar reason.
- DM met with Forestry. Department is enhancing involvement and will work closer with Con Ed. New policy: The department that takes down a tree also takes it away.
- Phones are still not hunting so callers often receive no answer. Extension 7895 is now best line. Told that rats ate wires in rear of building. Anticipates new phone system and internet in two weeks.
- District Services Cabinet discussed potholes (call 311), construction permits and commercial food safety training at Hostos on May 29<sup>th</sup>
- Office needs to receive issues and correspondence raised directly with committees in order to answer questions and respond to FOIL requests.
- During conference call with CM Cabrera and Speaker Johnson, learned that most CBs are also using special funding for technology upgrades and community events.
- Reminder to chairs: Bring community outreach materials and resource guides to all meetings

## Resolutions

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

## **PENDING COMMITTEE APPROVAL**

- Public Safety – (1) Two liquor license renewals from last month: Punch Bowl and Bronx Post 95. (2) Four renewals this month: Wave Hill, PKs, Mr. McGoos, Blue Bay Diner
- Traffic & Transportation – (1) SAPO – Israeli Independence Day on May 9<sup>th</sup>, (2) Step street naming to facilitate 911 and 311 response
- Land Use – Resolutions not provided (Wave Hill, Grosvenor and Waldo Ave properties)

## **Community Events Briefings**

- Generations event on June 2<sup>nd</sup> at Riverdale Neighborhood House hosted by Aging and Youth committees. E. Dinowitz presented the planned afternoon of intergenerational games, music and art with food and agency participation
- Bicycle Safety event on June 23<sup>rd</sup> at Van Cortlandt Park hosted by T&T committee. D. Padernacht presented the planned afternoon of classes, theft prevention inscriptions and giveaways
- Woman's Suffrage event on May 19<sup>th</sup> at Wave Hill hosted by Education, Libraries & Cultural Affairs committee. S. Alexander described lecture with Q&A by Bronx Historical Society on the role the Bronx played in the march to Albany
- Housing event – [presenter absent]

Also:

- Broadway Beautification Plan from 225<sup>th</sup> to 242<sup>nd</sup> streets - S. Villaverde and Economic Development committee is preparing scope of work to hire a consultant

Reminder that committees need to prepare event budgets in March (now)! The formal request for expenditures in order to allocate funds is due no later than April. Work with Treasurer.

## **Issues for Discussion**

- M. Wolpoff – LRE committee will again discuss Land Use committee resolution and requests written comments by Monday. Meeting participants discussed pros/cons of regular standing committee v. current practice
- D. Gellman – City response to FY20 budget requests arrived late and our hearing was snowed out, rescheduled for March 12<sup>th</sup>. Fast turnaround. It is important to submit draft FY21 capital and expense budget requests, prioritized in the format requested in recent email before April 30<sup>th</sup>. Participants discussed limiting number of requests
- L. Spalter – discussed draft abbreviated sign-in sheet. Public sign-in at meetings is optional and certain information may be released. Speakers are still required to sign in. We act on guidance received by the NYS Office of Open Government.
- Date of June Board meeting will need to change due to another conflict with NY Philharmonic concert at VCP on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to B. Bender for notice!
- M. Donato – Raised concerns about the proposed substance abuse clinic on Broadway (232<sup>nd</sup> street), proximity to schools and conflicting information regarding their demographic study, dispensing of methadone and other issues. The operators will attend the Health, Hospitals and Social Services committee meeting on March 13<sup>th</sup> at the 50<sup>th</sup> police precinct to present their proposal and answer questions.

**Outstanding Issues – None**

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm

Submitted by Lisa Daub, Secretary