

## BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

### MINUTES OF THE HEALTH, HOSPITALS & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING, March 17, 2014

#### PRESENT

Michael Heller  
Joyce Pilsner  
Lisa Daub  
Sylvia Alexander  
Beverly Fettman  
Dana Lennon  
Steven Balicer (by phone)  
Emma Rodgers  
Jane Folloro

#### AFFILIATION

Committee Vice Chair  
CB 8 – Committee member  
CB 8 – Committee member  
CB 8 – Committee member  
CB 8 – Committee member  
CB 8 – Committee member  
CB 8 – Committee member  
Bronx Health Reach  
Kingsbridge Heights CC

The meeting was called to order at 7:47 p.m. at the Board Office.

Vice Chair Michael Heller conducted the meeting in the Chair's absence. As the committee was short a quorum, Mr. Heller contacted Steven Balicer via phone. A quorum did develop, although Mr. Balicer participated via phone.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the January 30, 2014 meeting were reviewed and approved.

**Chair's Report** – no report

**Presentation:**      **Kingsbridge Heights Community Center - Play Street, 2014**

**Emma Rodgers:** Ms. Rodgers, of Bronx Health Reach, provided some background on Bronx Health Reach and the process that led to the Play Street last year, as well as an evaluation that was conducted of the program. She presented a one-page summary that reviewed the program. Bon Secour, Kingsbridge Heights Community Center, Transportation Alternatives and Bronx Health Reach collaborated to create and administer the program adjacent to KHCC. For the evaluation, personal observations were recorded and interviews were conducted; however, children were not surveyed as that was not approved by the IRB. On average, 146 children attended each week – 25% of whom were from the KHCC summer camp. Youth council activities were augmented. Structured and unstructured activities took place. Activities including a pop up library, bouncy castle, and climbing wall were very successful. Gardening classes were popular. Programming took place within the KHCC building as well. Attendance at the afternoon Youth Market did not increase despite expectations. Why this happened is not clear.

Most programs said they would participate in 2014, and there is an effort to attract more day care providers next summer.

Some discussion took place regarding problems caused by the long approval process required to run a Play Street, DOT needs three months, and the sponsors want the timeline shortened. Clearly, there was a first year learning curve.

**Jane Folloro:** Ms. Folloro, of KHCC, stated that some additional providers did come to participate as the summer passed. A Play Street committee has been created among different departments within KHCC to coordinate and increase the number of outside providers in 2014.

After some discussion on the chain of events required to make the Play Street happen, Mr. Heller presented the resolution to the committee.

**WHEREAS**, the ongoing obesity epidemic has caused a high percentage of children to experience diminished capacities and medical conditions not widely known to teens and children; and

**WHEREAS**, Children residing in the Bronx are particularly at risk due to poor diet and a lack of exercise opportunities, and have the highest rate of obesity in the city; and

**WHEREAS**, The NYC Department of Health and Mental Health, along with the NYC Departments of Parks and Transportation, have created a program called Play Streets to help combat childhood obesity in our city; and

**WHEREAS**, The Play Streets initiative is designed to allow communities to open up their streets to pedestrians for play on a recurrent basis. They occur on local streets officially closed to traffic, and are open to people at regularly scheduled times; and

**WHEREAS**, Kingsbridge Heights Community Center (KHCC), with the support of Bronx Health REACH and Bon Secour New York Health System, have applied for a specific area designation. These groups will supply funding and administrative support for games, equipment, workshops and promotion of healthy eating; and

**WHEREAS**, A Play Street is to be created in front of KHCC on Kingsbridge Terrace, between Perot Street and Summit Place on Fridays, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM in July and August 2014, coinciding with KHCC's on-site farmers' youth market; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, Bronx Community Board No. 8 fully supports and endorses the application of the Kingsbridge Heights Community Center to create a Play Street as designated above, during the summer months of 2014.

*The resolution passed unanimously.*

With the full board voting the second week in April and the executive committee meeting the week before that, there was concern the resolution would not get to the local precinct and DOT for approval in a timely fashion. District Manager Stent will be asked to contact DOT (Ms. Moran) to expedite the application once it is approved by the full board.

The discussion concluded with suggestions of potential additional participants and a short video of a day last summer.

**Follow-up Business: Budget Priorities**

Mr. Heller described how incorrect responses were generated to several budget priority requests:

- 1) Request for RMH funding was erroneously routed to Division for The Aging instead of DOHMH. This was corrected via follow up by Nicole Stent.
- 2) FDNY EMS restocking station requested response was first garbled, but fixed. A discussion took place about the value of putting the proposal forward every year and having it continually vetoed by FDNY staff. Despite Mr. Heller's objection, Ms. Alexander, Ms. Fettman and others insisted that we continue to push it in the hope it will be eventually accepted. After discussion, the Committee decided it should remain among the capital budget requests.

**New Business**

None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, April 29, 7:30 pm at Manhattan College Lower, Room RLC 205.

Prepared by Michael Heller, Vice Chair  
Reviewed by Steven Froot, Chair  
Health, Hospitals & Social Services Committee