BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

MINUTES OF THE HOUSING COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON APRIL 28, 2014 AT THE BOARD OFFICE 5676 RIVERDALE AVENUE, BRONX NY 10471

Board Members Present: Affiliation:

Paul Ellis CB8 Housing Committee, Vice Chair

Bob Fanuzzi CB8, Board Chair Maria Khury CB8, Vice Chair

Julie Reyes

Georgia Santiago

Anthony Creaney

David Kornbluh

CB8 Housing Committee

CB8 Housing Committee

CB8 Housing Committee

CB8 Housing Committee

Margaret Donato CB8

Dana Lennon CB8 Housing Committee

Guests:

Tony Edwards Councilman Y. Rodriguez's Office

Thomas C. Durham

Ashley Helms Riverdale Press

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 PM.

Paul Ellis, Vice Chair of the Committee, welcomed the attendees and introduced himself, and explained that in the absence of the Committee Chair he would be chairing the meeting. Mr. Ellis then went on to review the agenda for the evening.

Julie Reyes made a motion to accept the March 24, 2014 Housing Committee minutes. After being seconded and followed by discussion, the minutes were approved by all except Dana Lennon who abstained.

1) Report on Meeting with Marble Hill Tenants Association

Mr. Ellis announced the upcoming public forum, scheduled for June 23, 2014, which will address issues concerning the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) developments within Community Board 8. Steve Balicer, Nicole Stent, Mr. Ellis and other members of the Committee are working towards putting the forum together. The location has yet to be determined but is intended to be a venue in the Marble Hill neighborhood.

On April 13, 2014, Housing committee members Mr. Balicer, Mr. Ellis, Georgia Santiago and Ms. Reyes met Paulette Shomo, President of the Marble Hill Tenant's Association,

along with several members of the Marble Hill community. The meeting resulted in a wide ranging discussion on topics including the status of the security camera installation, a continued need for better lighting, the backlog of work orders, issues with management and concerns regarding cleanliness of the buildings. At the conclusion of the meeting, the Marble Hill tenants in attendance identified what they believed to be the three most important concerns for the residents at Marble Hill to be as follows: (1) maintenance, (2) janitorial services, and (3) security.

2) Planning for June Public Forum

Mr. Ellis outlined the plans that were currently in progress with respect to the forum in June, and committee members and board members generally identified issues of concern and points that should be considered to be addressed at the forum.

Attempts are being made for S. Balicer and Mr. Ellis to meet with the new manager at Marble Hill. With respect to the forum, NYCHA has been informed of the event and has indicated that an appropriate person will be identified to attend.

Pertaining to security cameras, currently, cameras in Marble Hill buildings are located in all lobbies and the exterior of buildings – except Buildings 4, 5 and 6. Building 2 needs money for both elevator cars, and Building 3 needs money for one elevator car. \$36,000 has been requested for elevators by Councilman Rodriguez.

Thomas Durham mentioned that the Federal government has given funds for maintenance of all NYCHA housing. Discussion ensued as to the status of the funds for Marble Hill and Ft. Independence, and how the funds are being utilized.

Tony Edwards distributed "Find a Cure" pamphlets which describe a five (5) phase program to improve the handling of garbage by tenants and overall cleanliness of the buildings. The 5 phases are: (1) Information of how + where to dispose of garbage, (2) Friendly Warning, (3) Residential Forum, (4) Fines, and (5) Housing Association.

Ms. Santiago advised that Marble Hill needs a garbage can at W. 230 St. and Broadway. Bob Fanuzzi advised that the Board has requested garbage cans in the past and the requests were rejected.

3) Capital/Expense Budget Priorities Fiscal Year 2016

Mr. Ellis reported that Mr. Balicer is in conversations with representatives of HPD regarding this matter.

4) Old Business

None.

5) New Business

A notice was distributed that Wednesday, April 30, 2014 is Clean Street Initiative at St. Stephens.

There was discussion concerning Major Capital Improvements and the impact on CB8 residents.

Tony Edwards advised that in October of 2015, residents of the Promenade apartments will experience rent increases in connection with increased maintenance needs.

Maria Khury reported that the Kingsbridge Terrace Library has an event scheduled on immigration issues.

On May 9th there will be a Job Fair at the Kingsbridge Library in connection with the Equity One project.

On May 15th the Community Board 8 Youth Committee will host a Youth Poetry Slam at the Kingsbridge Library.

There will not be a May committee meeting due to the Memorial Day holiday.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,

Julie Reyes, CB 8 – Bronx Housing Committee Member