

COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8 BRONX

**MINUTES OF THE LIBRARIES & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON MARCH 23, 2009
AT THE BOARD OFFICE**

Present

Robert G. Abbott
Maria Khury
Bridget Maybury
Martin Wolpoff
Rebecca Barbier

Affiliation

Committee Chairman, CB#8
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CB#8
NYPL, Site Manager at Riverdale

Old Business – Bob reported that he met with Michael Alvarez (NYPL Network Manager) to discuss the impact of NYPL's presentation at the joint meeting with the Aging committee held at the Riverdale "Y" in January. The committee wants to identify specific activities that may have resulted from the presentation. Rebecca mentioned that staff at the Riverdale branch is interested in pursuing outreach arrangements with senior organizations in their neighborhood. She also mentioned that a Wii device, demonstrated at the joint meeting, had been acquired by Riverdale library and would be featured in upcoming activities.

Mission Statement – each Board committee has been asked to prepare a mission statement. To get started, Marty will circulate a statement that was prepared some time ago for this committee. The mission statements are to be completed by May.

Budget Priorities – After discussion with the NYPL, our priorities are unchanged. For the capital budget, we endorse:

- 1) construction of the new building for the Kingsbridge branch on West 231st Street.
- 2) complete renovation of the Spuyten Duyvil branch.
- 3) acquisition of a new site for the Van Cortlandt branch that would permit construction of a full sized branch of 10,000 square feet to replace the existing 2,200 square feet facility. If a new site cannot be acquired, then the existing building interior should be renovated.

Our only priority for the Expense budget is that funding be maintained to keep the branch libraries open six (6) days a week.

Economic Development committee - has proposed a joint meeting with us to hear from the Bronx Council on the Arts as to the role of the arts in revitalizing an area that is experiencing business down turns. While interested in the idea, we would like to have a preliminary meeting just with members of both committees prior to engaging outside resources. The intent would be to plan a more focused agenda for the guest(s) with an improved probability of tangible results.

Submitted by,

Robert G. Abbott
Chairman
Libraries & Cultural Affairs Committee

RA/nms