

Minutes of the Meeting of the **Libraries & Cultural Affairs Committee**
Held at the Riverdale branch library on October 5, 2009

Present

Robert G. Abbott
Bridget Maybury
Rebecca Barbier
Michael Alvarez

Affiliation

CB#8, Committee Chair
CB#8
NYPL, Riverdale Site Manager
NYPL, Network Manager

Guest Speaker – Mr. Michael Alvarez, Network Manager for the NYPL, provided an overview of activities at the local branches including progress update on Kingsbridge construction. The current estimate for opening of the new facility is year-end 2010. Mr. Alvarez also reported that Bob Bellinger, vice president for governmental relations at the NYPL, has retired. He will be missed and a successor has not yet been named.

Outreach at Riverdale – Elaborating on Mr. Alvarez's overview, Rebecca distributed the October calendar of events for the Riverdale branch. The level of programming is excellent and she reported on a very successful concert program during the summer as well as toddler, teenage, and senior citizen outreach efforts that have been well received. The children's librarian has a nice singing voice which she uses to enrich the story telling activities. The teenagers have been introduced to non-video games (such as "Risk") and the senior citizens have computer classes and internet training. Rebecca is planning to contact local senior centers and groups to advance the outreach efforts for this group specifically. She maintains an active dialogue with branch patrons to ascertain interest in prospective programs.

New Business – we reviewed the expense and capital budget priorities for fiscal 2011. On the expense budget we continue to endorse funding for the 6-day per week service level that is now in place. On the capital budget the focus on renovation of the Spuyten Duyvil branch and replacement or significant renovation of the Van Cortlandt branch are equally important. As a matter of continuing visibility for the effort we retained, at lower priority, construction of the Kingsbridge branch but recognize that this work is fully funded.

Next Meeting – will probably be held at the Spuyten Duyvil branch where some painting has been done and minor improvements have been made.

Robert G. Abbott, Chairman
Libraries & Cultural Affairs Committee