

## BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

### MINUTES OF THE LIBRARIES & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MARH 11, 2015 AT THE JEROME PARK LIBRARY

#### Present

Marvin Goodman  
Nicola McDonald  
Tim Tureski  
Rebecca Brown-Barbier, Library Manager

#### Affiliation

CB8, Committee Chair  
Library Manager – Jerome Park Library  
District Branch Manager - Spuyten Duyvil  
Riverdale Library

The meeting began at 6:30PM. There being no quorum of community board committee members, the minutes of the previous meetings were set aside.

The Chair introduced Nicola McDonald, our guest speaker. Nicola was recently assigned as library manager of Jerome Park Library.

Nicola indicated that her duties as branch manager included creating daily and monthly schedules of activities, oversee the branch daily operations and ensure that desired materials for library participants are available. Managing includes ensuring supplies; materials and program offerings are made available. Branch managers also hire new assistants. The clientele of this branch is of all ages - mostly pre-teens after school and in the morning hours many seniors use the branch. A toddler program is also present. There are outreaches to the central NYPL for current program updates and display materials. There is collaboration with the network manager and with the other district library managers to share ideas and technologies. There is a large section of Spanish books to service the largely Dominican neighborhood. There are also Chinese and Vietnamese residents. There is a citizenship center of bilingual materials available for all users. Audio books to help learn English are available. Books and DVD's help learn citizenship information. Materials are available to help study for tests for employment at various government jobs. GED study books help patrons qualify for high school diplomas. Audio books are available for adults and for children. There is an adult computer section and a children's computer section. DVD's, CD's, magazines and daily newspapers also serve all patrons. To encourage circulation, there is a reach-out to local schools. Programs are broken down by age groups, ranging from "pajama party" programs for the very young, gaming programs for teens, weekly computer programs for adults and a weekly crocheting program. There are special monthly programs for all, such as a live band music program last month. There are classes to help adults learn English. Since the library is located near the Veterans Administration Hospital, there is also a veteran's book club, with material of special interest to them. A community job fair was held recently. There is a partnership with community schools. Presentations are made at local schools. Students get special library cards that exempt them from paying fines for overdue books. These participating schools also have school libraries. These are all public schools. School librarians visit the NYPL library and branch libraries visit the school libraries to help the two partner for students to have materials available. There is also a partnership with the VA hospital for monthly cultural topics to present. They hope to do more outreach programs in the community with other groups too. Handicapped people can participate in a "books by mail" program. There is also a joint monthly interchange of books among branch

libraries to help patrons get the books of their choice, which may not otherwise be available at local library. Libraries can sometimes get materials for patrons from college libraries or from out of state facilities. The library also has facilities to enable patrons to read a book on their I-phones, for example. Librarians are helping patrons with their job resumes and how to use the data-base to fund research information. The library maintains an after-school "enrichment zone" for students in grades 1 to 8, which provides homework help and computer literacy. This program operates in the summer as well. Some students qualify for a special "hot spots" program which gets them free 6 month WI-FI service.

The Chair discussed with the other branch library managers how their programs compared to the programs at this branch. The Chair discussed the NYPL publication which indicates what is happening currently throughout the system. The Chair also distributed copies of a recent publication, obtained through the efforts of Rosemary Ginty, which envisioned what libraries might look like in the future, issued by the Center for Urban Libraries.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marvin Goodman  
Chair, Libraries and Cultural Affairs Committee