

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

MINUTES OF THE LIBRARIES & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MAY 12, 2016 AT THE BOARD OFFICE, 5676 RIVERDALE AVENUE, SUITE 100

Present

Marvin Goodman
Sylvia Alexander
Philip Friedman
Martin Wolpoff
Amy Joy Robateau
Norah Yahya

Monique Gibbs
Tim Tureski
Peter Pamphile
Rebecca Barbier
Judith Greene

Affiliation

CB8 Committee Chair
CB8 Committee Member
CB8 Committee Member
CB8 Committee Member
CB8 Committee Member
NYPL, Senior Manager,
Government and Community Affairs Department
NYPL, Government and Community Affairs Department
Branch Manager, Spuyten Duyvil Library
Branch Manager, Van Cortlandt Library
Branch Manager, Riverdale Branch Library
Community Member

Absent

None

The meeting began at 5:15pm. The minutes of the April meeting were unanimously approved.

The Committee Chair introduced our guest speakers, Norah Yahya and Monique Gibbs, of the New York Public Library Government and Community Affairs Department. It was explained to them that we were having difficulties formulating our CB8's budgetary requests from our Libraries and Cultural Affairs Committee for Fiscal Year 2018 because it was unclear to what extent, if any, several budgetary requests for Fiscal Year 2017 had been funded. These budget requests were made known to them.

The Chair and committee members thanked the NYPL Community Affairs representative for the improvements made in our libraries in the FY 2016 Budget, which resulted in new staff hires, longer hours, more programs and more materials for our libraries in CB8.

There were presentations and questions to, and answers from, the representatives from the NYPL's office of Government and Community Affairs Department on updated fundings and ongoing projects for the five NYPL branches in Bronx Community Board 8. As a result of these presentations, the following was decided as recommendations for FY 2018:

Due to have already been funded and/or a scheduled/ongoing project, the following requests were no longer considered for further budget requests:

- Jerome Park – Supplemental Funding for Roof replacement.
- Spuyten Duyvil – New Roof / Roof Replacement

Though it had been suggested that the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements for four of the five branches were accommodated (*i.e., bathrooms, entrances & isles*), from input from three of the branches, the Committee considered maintaining capital request items for the three branches.

It was discussed that although the NYPL is seriously researching relocating the Van Cortlandt branch, a branch that currently resides in a leased space, the Committee requests for renovations/repair of the leased branch were kept as requests for FY 2018.

The following are the Capital Requests assembled during the Committee meeting. The requests take into account information provided by NYPL and carries over several requests from previous FY's. Some request items which had been previously consolidated into a single request have been broken out item-by-item. The listing does not yet represent order of priority. Requested amounts are estimates for further consideration:

Riverdale Branch

HVAC Unit Replacement

Request Amount: \$1,000,000
(*mimics NYPL FY 17 Capital request*)

ADA Upgrade – ADA Bathrooms

Request Amount: \$500,000
(*mimics NYPL FY 17 Capital request*)

Full Interior Renovation

Request Amount: **\$2,300,000**
(*carried over from Committee FY 17 Capital requests*)

Spuyten Duyvil Branch

5,000 Square Foot Branch Expansion

Request Amount: **\$7,300,000**
(*carried over from Committee FY 17 Capital requests*)

Boiler & HVAC Unit Replacements

Request Amount: \$1,000,000
(*mimics NYPL FY 17 Capital request*)

ADA Upgrade

Request Amount: **\$500,000**

General Interior Renovation

Request Amount: **\$5,600,000**

Van Cortlandt BranchFaçade Rehabilitation

Request Amount: \$460,000

*(carried over from Committee FY 17 Capital requests)*Roof Replacement

Request Amount: \$345,000

*(carried over from Committee FY 17 Capital requests)*General Interior Renovation

Request Amount: \$690,000

*(carried over from Committee FY 17 Capital requests)*Window Replacement

Request Amount: \$345,000

*(carried over from Committee FY 17 Capital requests)*HVAC Unit Replacement

Request Amount: \$230,000

*(carried over from Committee FY 17 Capital requests)*ADA Upgrade

Request Amount: \$230,000

(carried over from Committee FY 17 Capital requests)

In discussions regarding expense budget requests, it was to be determined if specific expense items, *(i.e. new pre-wired furniture)* could be requested for specific branches within BxCB08. The NYPL representatives were researching and would advise prior to the committee submitting their requests to the Budget Committee.

At this time, the Committee is waiting to hear back from NYPL with respect to Expense Request items which may be considered for inclusion in the finalized request.

With special thanks to Philip Friedman for his research, his knowledgeable questions and his assistance in assembling our FY 2018 budgetary requests.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marvin Goodman
Chair, Libraries and Cultural Affairs Committee