

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8**

**MINUTES OF THE LIBRARIES & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
MEETING HELD ON DECEMBER 11, 2014  
AT THE SPUYTEN DUYVIL BRANCH LIBRARY  
650 WEST 235<sup>TH</sup> STREET**

**Present**

Marvin Goodman  
Philip Friedman  
Martha Gonzalez-Buitrago  
Peter Pamphile  
Tim Tureski

**Affiliation**

CB8, Committee Chair  
CB8  
NYPL – Kingsbridge Branch Manager  
NYPL – Van Cortlandt Branch Manager  
NYPL – Spuyten Duyvil Branch Manager

The meeting began at 6:45PM. The committee minutes of November 13, 2014 could not be approved because of the lack of a quorum.

The Chair read a report from “Citizens Defending Libraries.” It alleges there was a scandal in the Queens Library system by Thomas Galante over misuse of funds. A study of funding showed that only 0.5% of NYC fundings goes to libraries. Even parks, which is underfunded, receives 7% of NYC fundings. The report feels the current library system is not set up properly. The digital divide is worse than the financial divide. The average age of a Bronx library is 56 years. (The libraries in CB8 are much newer).

Philip Friedman had attended the City’s capital budget hearings. There was a stress on the need for more days and hours of operation of branch libraries. There is a need for Wi-Fi service connections in libraries. Wi-Fi serves as hot spots for adult learning. Students do homework on-line now too.

Peter Pamphile spoke of the leaking roofs in the Van Cortlandt branch and in the Riverdale branch, which are in danger of causing severe damage. He also emphasized the need for the expansion of the small Van Cortlandt branch.

Martha Gonzalez-Buitrago spoke about how the modernized resources at this newly located branch had been able to address the need for more computers and more computer classes. As a result, there has been increased book circulation, as it has in all other branches.

Tim Tureski spoke about the alliance between the NYPL librarians and the librarians at local public school libraries. His staff librarians have visited and worked with school librarians at P.S. 24 and MS/HS 141. Teachers at the local schools can borrow up to 100 books at a time for class projects. Students are encouraged to borrow books too. There are several ways the local library can alleviate fines to students who return books late.

All branch libraries have a variety of programs to attract people of all ages. Our local newspapers highlight many of these on-going programs. These range from classic movie films to computer classes. At Spuyten Duyvil branch there is a teen drawing workshop and a teen jewelry making project. At Kingsbridge there is a knitting class, an exercise class, a meditation class, a writing workshop and a Wii bowling time. Other library branches offer similar programs to meet the needs of attendees.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marvin Goodman  
Chair, Libraries and Cultural Affairs Committee