

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

**MINUTES OF THE LIBRARIES & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON DECEMBER 10, 2015
AT THE RIVERDALE LIBRARY, 5540 MOSHOLU AVENUE**

Present

Marvin Goodman
Sylvia Alexander
Philip Friedman
Amy Joy Robateau
Marty Wolpoff
Rebecca Barbier
Tim Tureski

Affiliation

CB8, Committee Chair
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Riverdale Branch Manager
Spuyten Duyvil Branch Manager

Absent

Manuel Felix

CB8

The meeting began at 6:40PM.

The minutes of the September meeting and of the November meeting were approved.

The Chair spoke about the NYPL fiscal year 2017 capital budget priorities and how these impacted the five libraries in our community board district. The Spuyten Duyvil Library, the Riverdale Library and the Mosholu Library had each requested funding for a building envelope/facility preservation system and a mechanical/energy conservation system. These were not approved. The Riverdale Library had also requested funding to meet ADA (Americans With Disabilities Act) compliances. This too was not approved. The Department of Design and Construction of the NYPL did approve \$110, 220.00 for the design services for a retaining wall and façade restoration at the Riverdale Library.

Since we are also the Cultural Affairs Committee, the Chair noted that the City's Department of Cultural Affairs had approved a total of \$80,000.00 for the purchase of a shuttle van and a cargo van for Wave Hill.

The Chair presented information concerning the third annual New York City Neighborhood Library Awards. Five libraries will each receive a \$20,000.00 award, based on nominations sent in by New Yorkers and five additional libraries will each receive a runner-up award of \$10,000.00, again based on the number of nominations submitted by December 18, 2015. The funds will be used to increase the materials and programs for visitors at these winning branches. These winners will thus improve their classes, their events and their resources to encourage visitors to keep coming back to their library branch. We hope one of our community libraries will be among the winners.

The Chair introduced Rebecca Barbier, Branch Manager of the Riverdale Library. Our guest speaker noted that the 2016 expense budget increases to branch libraries has enabled this branch to hire an additional librarian to assist with all on-going programming and has enabled this library branch to expand its hours of operations on a six day basis. This extension of service hours and personnel will enable each of our branches to extend and improve programs and services. The Mosholu Branch Library will also have Sunday hours. The

programs at the Riverdale Library include a knitting club, a computer help program, a word scrabble game program, a writing program, a book discussion program, NYPL Tech connect programs, such as photo editing on Pixler and Tablets, after school science, early childhood playdates, Lego free play, and English conversation groups for adults. These programs are similar to programs offered at the other branches.

The Branch Manager and the Chair reiterated the need to remedy the cesspool problem at this location. During heavy rainstorms water has overflowed at this internal cesspool and caused damage to the library. We noted the damage to the door posts of our meeting room. At our request, the Branch Manager took us to the site of the sinkhole in an enclosed closet area, and we saw the water there. It was noted that Councilman Andrew Cohen has allocated funding for a preliminary study for a remedy to this problem.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00PM.

The next meeting will be January 14, 2015, 4:00PM at the Van Cortlandt House Museum, Broadway and West 246 Street.

Respectfully submitted,

Marvin Goodman
Chair, Libraries and Cultural Affairs Committee