

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING HELD ON MAY 13TH, 2013 AT THE CONSERVATIVE SYNAGOGUE 475 WEST 250TH STREET

PRESENT: R. Abbott, S. Alexander, S. Balicer, B. Bender, B. Contant, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, A. G. Feldmeier, P. Friedman, S. Froot, M. Galvin, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, M. Heller, M. Khury, D. Kornbluh, I. Ladimer, D. Lennon, R. Pochter Lowe, S. Marquez, C. G. Moerdler, A. Moore, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, J. M. Pilsner, A. Piscitelli, R. Press, X. Sanchez, G. Santiago, A. A. Spett, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

ABSENT: S. Catechis, A. Cohen, A. P. Creaney, B. Fettman, D. Kirksey-Floyd, T. Lim, P. Mullen, J. Reyes, P. Reyes, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone

STAFF: N. Stent – District Manager
D. Bay – Community Associate

GUESTS: J. Dinowitz – Assemblyman
G. Oliver Koppell - Councilman
A. Sandler – Office of Councilman G. Oliver Koppell
S. Conte – Office of Councilman G. Oliver Koppell
D. Johnson – Office of Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz
A. Toledo – rep. Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.
V. Pichardo – rep. Senator Gustavo Rivera
D.I. K. Burke – 50th Precinct, NYPD
P.O. M. Ramos – 50th Precinct, NYPD
P.O. S. Cordero – 50th Precinct, NYPD
T. Tureski – NYPL
R. Barbier – NYPL
C. Barrett
M. Charleny
L. Daub
B. De Guzman
C. Goldberger
J. Goodman
J. Goris
J. Green
J. Johnson – Grow NYC
E. Maldonado
C. McGuire
J. Moerdler-Hatzalah
P. Moerdler
F. Nazeer
T. Shelton - KRVC
A. Simmons
C. Stanton
A. Stewart
A. Sutherland

Chairman Fanuzzi convened the meeting at 7:35 PM.

1. Gallery Session

- A. Jeffrey Moerdler, a coordinator for Hatzalah Volunteer Ambulance of Riverdale expressed concerns about changes in several DOT parking signage and striping issues that are hampering Hatzalah's ability to respond to medical emergencies in Riverdale. The Chairman referred the matter to the Traffic & Transportation Committee.
- B. Tim Tureski, Spuyten Duyvil Library, discussed the library funding cuts that will impact services. He asked for the Board's support in a letter writing campaign to Mayor Bloomberg and City Council Speaker Quinn.
- C. Tracy Shelton, Kingsbridge Riverdale Van Cortlandt (KRVC) announced the Riverdale Merchants Association will be having its Riverdale Spring Festival on Sunday, May 19th on Riverdale Avenue between West 258 and 259th Streets from 12:00PM to 4:00PM. There will be clowns, stilt walkers, face painting, inflatable bouncy castle and much more.
- D. Performing poet Erik "Advocate of Wordz" Maldonado announced that he is hosting the first annual Youth Poetry Slam to be held on Thursday, May 23rd at the Kingsbridge Library from 5 to 8PM. The event is curated by Community Board 8 Youth Chair, Lamont Parker. 16 student poets will be competing and prizes will be given out. He thanked the Kingsbridge Library for allowing the use of the library after closing hours.
- E. John Johnson from Grow NYC announced a Swap and Shop Day on June 8th from 12-3PM at Amalgamated Housing Cooperative/Vladek Hall. Bring clean, reusable, portable items that you no longer need, and take home something new-to-you, free! You don't have to bring something to take something. No furniture or large items.

2. Approval of regular Board Meeting Minutes of April 9, 2013.

The minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Discussion of Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of May 1, 2013

R. Ginty corrected Chair's Report, second bullet; the community board's review time for sidewalk café licensing applications is not a proposal from the Mayor's office.

No acceptance of Executive minutes.

4. Chairman invited Deputy Inspector Burke to address the Board.

- Detective Louis Rodriguez, longtime community affairs office has retired. Police Officers Ramos and Cordero will be the new community affairs liaisons.
- On April 29th there was an unfortunate death of a 3 year old, 2 arrests were made of the mother and the live-in boyfriend. Investigation in ongoing.
- On May 9th there was dispute that resulted in a shooting at 69 West 225th Street. No fatalities, no suspects, case is ongoing.
- Between May 4th and May 11th there were 4 robberies of delivery men. An arrest was made on Saturday.
- The house burglaries that occurred in North Riverdale have ceased. Police believe this is a result of an arrest made in Yonkers.
- A woman and her two daughters were the victims of a brutal attack at their home on Giles Place. It is under investigation.
- A concern was raised regarding lack of enforcement when calling 311. DI Burke explained he received the same complaints and the precinct is focusing on better service when calling 311. Crimes in progress go to 911. The 911 call may be directed to 311 if the operators deem it necessary.

- Complaints have been received on underage drinking in some of the establishments in the neighborhood. They are being addressed.
5. Chairman invited Councilman G. Oliver Koppell to address the Board.
- Councilman Koppell discussed the City budget and advised that it is more favorable than in past years. He reviewed both capital and expense priorities of the board and will do his best to obtain funding for those priorities. His priorities are schools, parks and community facilities such as community centers, senior centers, Wave Hill, etc.
 - There are now requirements for bicycle delivery people. They must wear reflective clothing and have the name of the business and an individual identification number printed on the back. Other elements of the new laws include mandatory safety training for all commercial cyclists and record keeping at each business showing it has been completed. Councilman Koppell favors the bike share program.
 - Councilman Koppell announced that C. Moerdler and the MTA deserve credit for the restoration of services and for the expansion of Metro North Service into the city from an hourly service to a half hourly service.
6. Report from the Bronx Borough President's Office – A. Toledo
- Borough President's office will be sending notification in the next few weeks to Community Board members who have submitted a reappointment application and members of the general audience who applied to the community board.
 - We are now in Bronx Week. It will close with the annual Bronx Parade and Food & Arts Festival on Mosholu Parkway on Sunday, May 19, 2013. Booklets were displayed on the front table.
7. Chairman invited Assemblyman Dinowitz to address the Board.
- Assemblyman Dinowitz reported that the slow zone along Henry Hudson Parkway East and Palisade Avenue on the West 232nd to 247th had been implemented.
 - Due to a loss of rental revenue from the Department of Education at the Van Cortlandt Jewish Center, there was a fear that the Center and possibly the senior center would close. By reaching out to the Mosholu Montefiore Community Center the Assemblyman and Andy Cohen helped to bring these organizations together to work out a plan. The Mosholu Montefiore Community Center is going to be taking over the empty space on the 2nd and 3rd floors of the Van Cortlandt Jewish Center. This revenue, along with State funding will help the Center remain in operation.
8. Chairman's Report
- Chairman Fanuzzi concurred with Councilman Koppell's appraisal of MTA service, post-Sandy, as reported on WNYC.
 - Chairman Fanuzzi wished all a happy holiday, with assistance from I. Ladimer.
 - The Chair thanked the efforts of Councilman Koppell and Councilwoman Gail Brewer in securing the Community Boards budget for FY 2014. Chair Fanuzzi thanked the Bronx District Managers for their testimony. They were represented by N. Stent, district manager at the public hearing.
 - The Croton Filtration Monitoring Committee will be holding a meeting on June 6th and CB 8 members are encouraged to attend. These meetings address concerns regarding funds given to all Bronx areas for restoration of parkland and the schedule for the completion of the Croton Facility, and the construction at the jogging path around the Jerome Park reservoir.
 - R. Fanuzzi received information that Equity One (West 230th Street) received a permit from Department on Buildings to begin Saturday construction. According to the developer, this will expedite construction by 2-3 months. M. Khury added that the board office was contacted on May 6th asking for the board's support that same day at a meeting on Saturday construction, but the board required a committee

review. R. Fanuzzi directed concerns regarding Saturday construction to the next Economic Development Committee meeting.

- I. Ladimer announced that Wayne County Community College honored Vice Chair, Maria Khury as a keynote speaker at its graduation. She spoke on the subject of global learning in the travel, hospitality and communications industries.

9. Treasurer's Report – P. Friedman

- No Treasurer's Report.
- The Mayor's FY 2014 budget cuts were restored.
- A spreadsheet denoting CB8 expenditures from January 2010 to April 2013 was emailed to board members. All financial records of every city agency can be reviewed at www.checkbooknyc.com. This link will be placed on the board's website.

10. District Manager's Report

No report.

11. Report from the Department of City Planning

No representative present, no report.

12. Presentation of Community Service Awards (CSA)– R. Abbott

R. Abbott announced the Community Service Awards were initiated in 1993 to acknowledge the many volunteer efforts of groups and individuals within the community. It is the Board's belief that by recognizing the committed community volunteers, we can in some small way *reward them for their actions and hopefully inspire others to follow their example*. He proceeded to thank the community board office for its help and also thanked the CSA committee, Marvin Goodman, Xaxia Sanchez, Amy Moore and Dana Lennon.

The following honorees were called forward for presentation of the Award:

MANHATTAN COLLEGE'S GREEN CLUB: The Green Club is a student-run organization that seeks to educate members about environmental issues and topics of conservation such as climate change, the world water crisis, the Keystone Pipeline and hydraulic fracturing, as well as to promote activities such as urban gardening, nature hikes and do-it-yourself projects. It brings students and faculty together to discuss ecological issues, provide volunteers for "green" campus initiatives and collaborate with community sustainability projects. Its accomplishments include construction of a 260-square foot garden on top of the College's Broadway parking garage, the first annual Riverdale Community Clean Up where 15 bags of garbage were collected from Brust Park and surrounding streets. The second Annual Riverdale Clean Up will occur this spring. The Green Club also works in collaboration with the Friends of Van Cortlandt Park on the removal of several invasive species.

FIVE STUDENTS AT MARBLE HILL SCHOOL FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES: Marble Hill School for International Studies is a small college preparatory school for students interested in foreign languages and international studies. All eleventh and twelfth grade students are expected to provide non-paid community service in community agencies. These five students have performed exemplary voluntary community service tasks at local community agencies, going above and beyond their contributions to the school and communities throughout the Bronx, especially in the Bronx Community Board 8 area. The students are: Magill Charlery, Brian Francis DeGuzman, Michael Murillo, Fathima Nazeer and Michelle Pantaleon. Their contributions of many hours of dedicated volunteering includes peer tutoring; teacher and lab assistance;

projects with disabled youth; tutoring young children in after-school programs; as well as helping and working with the elderly in local nursing homes including participating in the *NY Neediest Cases Fund: Witnessing History* project interviewing elderly and writing a published biography.

13. Committee Reports

A. Health, Hospitals and Social Services – S. Froot

- There was no April meeting. The next meeting is Monday, May 20th at the board office at 7:30pm. The focus will be on budget request issues.

B. Housing – S. Balicer

- The Committee will not meet in May due to the Memorial Day holiday. The next meeting will be June 22nd. HPD will be on the agenda to discuss their functions.

C. Land Use – C. Moerdler

- The Land Use Committee will meet on June 10th. Discussion will include Hebrew Home's proposal.
- The Chair of the Environment & Sanitation Committee sought the help of C. Moerdler to have the debris cleaned up on the tracks of Metro North. This has been achieved.
- Commencing June of 2013 Metro North will launch a pilot program designed to have a massive clean up on the entire railroad tracks throughout the system.
- There will be an extension of the #20 bus line; it will connect with Dyckman Street and the subway.

D. Law, Rules and Ethics – R. Ginty

- The committee met on April 25th. Please refer to minutes for a comprehensive report.
- The next meeting will be held on May 23rd.
- I. Ladimer is a member of the committee and is heading up a project to update the Ethical Guidance Manual. I. Ladimer looks forward to the members' participation.

E. Libraries and Cultural Affairs – R. Abbott

- The committee met on May 9th at the Bronx Library Center. The NYPL is facing significant budget cuts. Go to NYPL.org/speakout. There is a form letter that is addressed to Mayor Bloomberg, Speaker Quinn and Council Member Koppell asking to stop the budget cuts. Councilman Koppell announced that a flood of letters is always good to show the public's concern.

F. Parks and Recreation – B. Bender

- The committee met on April 24th. Please refer to the minutes.

B. Bender presented the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Palisades along the Hudson River are a National Historic Landmark and a National Natural Landmark; and

WHEREAS, no building exceeds the height of the treeline on the Palisades north of Fort Lee, which includes the area directly across the Hudson from Riverdale; and

WHEREAS, LG Electronics has requested and been granted by Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, permission to build a headquarters that would rise 143 feet, which substantially exceeds the 35-foot height limit that Englewood Cliffs and communities to the north have respected to keep buildings below the treeline; and

WHEREAS, LG Electronics' 27-acre site will accommodate a headquarters built in a more horizontal configuration that would not exceed the treeline on the Palisades; and

WHEREAS, Wave Hill is a valued public garden and cultural center in Riverdale, visited by 144,000 people in 2012, and with an unobstructed view of the historic Palisades that would be compromised in perpetuity by the LG Electronics headquarters if built as presently proposed; as would be the case for residents with a view of the Palisades and anyone who uses Riverdale's Hudson River parks; and

WHEREAS, this building, if built as proposed, would undoubtedly be followed by other buildings that would destroy the scenic view of the Palisades currently enjoyed from the New York side of the Hudson; and

WHEREAS, organizations including the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, Scenic Hudson, the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Federation of New Jersey State Women's Clubs, the Riverdale Nature Preservancy, and Manhattan Community Board 12 oppose the construction of the LG headquarters as presently configured;

THEREFORE, Bronx Community Board 8 joins with these organizations in urging LG Electronics to be a responsible corporate citizen and to re-configure its proposed headquarters building to respect the historic status of the Palisades as well as the magnificent natural view of the Palisades from such institutions as the Cloisters, Wave Hill, and locations in Riverdale that presently enjoy this treasured landscape; and we urge our state and federal elected officials to take appropriate action in support of this resolution.

Vote: 34 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions

R. Abbott, S. Alexander, S. Balicer, B. Bender, B. Contant, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, A. G. Feldmeier, P. Friedman, S. Froot, M. Galvin, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, M. Heller, M. Khury, D. Kornbluh, I. Ladimer, D. Lennon, R. Pochter Lowe, S. Marquez, C. G. Moerdler, A. Moore, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, J. M. Pilsner, A. Piscitelli, R. Press, X. Sanchez, G. Santiago, A. A. Spett, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

- Two items on the agenda for May 22nd are: The New York Metropolitan Transportation Council's (NYMTC) brief report on its preferred alternative route for the Hudson River Greenway; and a discussion and review of the repaving of the Putnam Trail.
- Ewen Park will be the location for "It's My Park Day" on May 18th, starting at 10:00 AM. Volunteers will meet at the Ewen Park main entrance at West 231st Street and Riverdale Avenue at 10:00AM.
- Construction of the jogging path and renovation of Ft. Independence Park will begin soon.

G. Public Safety – A. G. Feldmeier

- A.G. Feldmeier welcomed P.O. Cordero, community affairs officer.
- A questionnaire for liquor license applicants created by the Public Safety Committee will be submitted after the May committee meeting. The next meeting is on May 30th.
- A. G. Feldmeier presented the following resolutions for a vote:

- I. **WHEREAS**, Bronx Ale House, 216 West 238th Street, enhances our community board with its varied food and drink menu, fosters Bronx pride and gives a popular gathering spot;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Bronx Community Board No. 8 supports this **Renewal Application** for liquor license.

Vote: 34 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions

R. Abbott, S. Alexander, S. Balicer, B. Bender, B. Contant, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, A. G. Feldmeier, P. Friedman, S. Froot, M. Galvin, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, M. Heller, M. Khury, D. Kornbluh, I. Ladimer, D. Lennon, R. Pochter Lowe, S. Marquez, C. G. Moerdler, A. Moore, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, J. M. Pilsner, A. Piscitelli, R. Press, X. Sanchez, G. Santiago, A. A. Spett, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

- II. **WHEREAS**, Generico's Pizzeria and Café, 3535 Riverdale Avenue, enhances our community board with interesting and well priced Italian specialty menu;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Bronx Community Board No. 8 supports this **Renewal Application** for liquor license.

Vote: 34 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions

R. Abbott, S. Alexander, S. Balicer, B. Bender, B. Contant, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, A. G. Feldmeier, P. Friedman, S. Froot, M. Galvin, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, M. Heller, M. Khury, D. Kornbluh, I. Ladimer, D. Lennon, R. Pochter Lowe, S. Marquez, C. G. Moerdler, A. Moore, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, J. M. Pilsner, A. Piscitelli, R. Press, X. Sanchez, G. Santiago, A. A. Spett, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

- III. **WHEREAS**, Riverdale City Grill, 3541 Riverdale Avenue, enhances our community board as locally owned and operated neighborhood restaurant in business for the past 8 years;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Bronx Community Board No. 8 supports this **Renewal Application** for liquor license.

Vote: 34 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions

R. Abbott, S. Alexander, S. Balicer, B. Bender, B. Contant, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, A. G. Feldmeier, P. Friedman, S. Froot, M. Galvin, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, M. Heller, M. Khury, D. Kornbluh, I. Ladimer, D. Lennon, R. Pochter Lowe, S. Marquez, C. G. Moerdler, A. Moore, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, J. M. Pilsner, A. Piscitelli, R. Press, X. Sanchez, G. Santiago, A. A. Spett, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

H. Traffic and Transportation – D. Padernacht

- Refer to minutes.
- D. Padernacht presented the following resolution passed by the Committee:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Traffic & Transportation Committee of Bronx Community Board No. 8 approves one Street Activity Permit application:

The committee reviewed a SAPO application (ID# 90970) for Cayuga Avenue Block Party which is to occur on June 23rd, 2013 in front of 4414 Cayuga Avenue.

Vote: 33 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention for cause

R. Abbott, S. Alexander, S. Balicer, B. Bender, B. Contant, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, A. G. Feldmeier, P. Friedman, S. Froot, M. Galvin, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, M. Heller, D. Kornbluh, I. Ladimer, D. Lennon, R. Pochter Lowe, S. Marquez, C. G. Moerdler, A. Moore, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, J. M. Pilsner, A. Piscitelli, R. Press, X. Sanchez, G. Santiago, A. A. Spett, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

Abstention: M. Khury (for cause)

- The May agenda will include:
 1. Alltown Car Service at 244 West 231st Street attended the April meeting and will return to the May meeting with additional information requested by the committee.
 2. Veterans Car service Veterans Radio Dispatcher Corp. New Base - 131 West Kingsbridge Road, Request for Letter of No Objection. Councilman Koppell is interested in our comments.
 3. Discussion of DOT Preliminary plans of the rehabilitation of Mosholu Parkway over Equestrian Path (bridge)
 4. DDC Project Water Main Installations in the Waldo Avenue vicinity.
 5. There was a request to resurface and maintain an area on Arlington Avenue and West 261st Street. This will be looked into.

I. Youth – L. Parker

- The Committee met on April 24th. Refer to minutes.
- The Youth Committee's 1st Annual Bronx Youth Poetry SLAM will take place on May 23rd, at the Kingsbridge Branch Library from 5:00PM to 8:00PM.
- The Youth Job Fair has been postponed to April of 2014. Preparation will begin in December of 2013.
- The next committee meeting will be at the Marble Hill Community Center on May 22nd.

J. Aging – No report

K. Budget – B. Contant

- Reminded the Committee Chairs to complete budget priorities request for FY 2015 by June.

L. Economic Development – S. Villaverde

- The next committee meeting will discuss Saturday construction at West 230th Street.
- The committee is requesting a list of local business from the BID and KRVC to service the West 230th Street project.
- The next meeting will include a discussion on next year's committee goals.

M. Education – S. Alexander

- The Committee met on April 23rd. Refer to minutes.
- Chair reported that PS 24 has received a commitment from Senator Klein to finance the installation of air conditioning in the new wing of their building. This was on the Education Committee budget priorities last year.
- Chair reported error in the testing of Kindergarten Gifted and Talented students.

- The Community Service Forum is scheduled for May 28th from 10:00AM to 12:00 PM at the Kingsbridge Library.

N. Environment & Sanitation – S. Marquez

- The Promenade area in Marble Hill has been cleaned. S. Marquez thanked N. Stent, C. Moerdler, T. Edwards and committee members for their assistance in this clean up.
- The next committee meeting will be on May 29th at St. Stephen's United Methodist Church. The Department of Sanitation will present recycling issues and enforcement and the pooper scooper law.

Meeting adjourned 9:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Bay
Community Associate

Reviewed by,

Joyce Pilsner
Secretary