

Traffic and Transportation Committee
Bronx Community Board No. 8
Minutes of December 20, 2018 Meeting

Vladeck Hall, Amalgamated
74 Van Cortlandt Park South
Bronx, NY 10463

Committee Members Present:

Dan Padernacht – Chair
Myra Joyce
Eric Dinowitz
Margaret Donato
Ed Green
I William Stone
Herb Young

Committee Members Absent:

Eric Bell
Georgia Santiago
Diomarys Escaño
Daniella Fuchs
David Gellman

Guests: Don Bluestone, Florence Gurell, Gabriel Gurell, Joseph A. Brodie, Brendan Fitzpatrick, Rochelle Cheifetz, Susan Cheifetz, Jordan Moss, Tobias B. Schapiro, Susan Arroyo, Ann B. Schapiro, Marsha Heller, Mayra Medina, Maggie Krupka, Joe Muriana, Susan Fisher, Yesenia Trujillo, Kathryn Trujillo, Ellen Polan, Barbara Rosenthal, Amy Dennis, Saurable Gupta, Becky Fridkin, Louise Scribner, David Nussbaum, Cindy Sherman, Jessica Sherman, Anison Sherman, Pablo Zinger, Dana Marsh

Chair Dan Padernacht called the meeting to order at 7:20pm. A quorum was present.

1. Request for street co-naming for William Scribner on Van Cortlandt Park South between Hillman and Saxon Avenues

- David Nussenbaum spoke about Mr. Scribner’s contributions not only to the Riverdale-Kingsbridge-Van Cortlandt Village neighborhoods, but also to the Bronx as a whole.
- Founded the Bronx Arts Ensemble and has a 44 year commitment to the organization.
- Reached out to all neighborhoods in the Bronx including during the 1970s when the Bronx was neglected.
- Strongly connected to the NY Board of Education, running programs and giving performances in the Bronx.

Bob Fanuzzi, chair of the Bronx Arts Ensemble board spoke about the positive impact Mr. Scribner made on the Bronx and the growth of the BAE. He spoke about school outreach that is due to Mr. Scribner.

Jeff Dinowitz praised Bill Scribner for all that he did right here in Vladeck Hall. Bill was instrumental in getting music programs into the schools in the Bronx.

The floor was opened to questions and comments:

Pablo Zinger spoke about the opportunity that Mr. Scribner gave him to become a conductor.

He went on to conduct operas in the South Bronx where children would perform in the operas. He helped finance commissions and premieres of new works.

Doris Spencer spoke about Bill's work in getting programming at the Amalgamated. He held cross generational events and has benefitted the community greatly.

Joe Muriana, Fordham University, Liaison with BAE. Praised Bill for always going one step further. Bill worked with Fordham to get grants from the Bronx Council on the Arts. He always wanted to engage and get kids involved with music.

Chair Dan Padernacht presented the following resolution to the Committee:

WHEREAS, William J. Scribner died on September 16, 2016 and this resolution is brought more than two years after his death; and

WHEREAS, William J. Scribner has been nominated for the honor of this proposed street co-naming by the Bronx Arts Ensemble, Friends of Van Cortlandt Park and the Amalgamated Housing Corporation, which are three community organizations that are active in Bronx Community Board 8 and as such, are on the list required to be kept by Bronx Community Board No. 8 under the City Charter; and

WHEREAS, William J. Scribner received a B.Mus. in Music Education from the University of Michigan School of Music in 1961, and went on to become one of New York's busiest freelance bassoonists, performing with the Brooklyn Philharmonic, New York Philharmonic, Metropolitan Opera Orchestra. American Symphony, Long Island Philharmonic, New Jersey State Opera Orchestra, Pittsburgh Symphony, the Bolshoi Ballet Orchestra, Royal Ballet Orchestra, Royal Danish Ballet Orchestra and also performed in many Broadway productions; and

WHEREAS, William J. Scribner was on the faculties of University of CT at Storrs, Rutgers University (Newark) and Queens College and was also a member of the Advisory Board of Hostos Community College and Board of Bronx Council on the Arts.

WHEREAS, the evidence and testimony presented to Bronx Community Board No. 8 has demonstrated that William J. Scribner has benefited a cross-section of Bronx Community Board No. 8 and the Borough of the Bronx and the City of New York;

WHEREAS, in 1972, answering the need for arts instruction which had been decimated in New York schools, Bill founded the Bronx Arts Ensemble, and guided that organization from its beginning as a wind quintet to its present status as the preeminent performance group in the Bronx, becoming one of the most acclaimed arts-in-education programs in the city, with instruction in music, visual arts, drama, dance and such innovative areas as capoeira, Latin and African drumming and electronic media, employing teaching artists in schools and a Residency at Fordham University comprising free concerts for campus and community and free summer programs.

WHEREAS, under William J. Scribner’s leadership, the Bronx Arts Ensemble championed new and little-known repertoire for both performance and recording, developed the works of little-known Latino composers, and compiled an impressive CD list for the Bronx Arts Ensemble, and which now performs over 50 annual live concerts and family theater in Bronx neighborhoods and parks and that teaches 14,000 art classes annually in 45 Bronx public schools; and

WHEREAS, William J. Scribner has shown his creativity, and helped mold the creativity of performers across the Borough of the Bronx and the City of New York through his arts-in-education programs and has brought notoriety to the Borough of the Bronx; and

WHEREAS, this street has a specific connection to William J. Scribner as it is the location of the headquarters of the Bronx Arts Ensemble; and

WHEREAS, the name change will not engender confusion as there are no other streets with similar name in the vicinity;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the northwest corner of Van Cortlandt Park South and Hillman Avenue be co-named William J. Scribner Way.

Vote taken to approve the application for the co-street naming.

In favor: Eric Dinowitz, Margaret Donato, Edward Green, Myra Joyce, Dan Padernacht, I. William Stone, Herb Young

Opposed:

Abstentions:

Chair Padernacht outlined the process going forward.

2. DOT proposal to change parking regulations to add parking on the west side of the Henry Hudson Parkway between West 239th and West 237th Streets.

- a. Assemblyman Dinowitz commented – he has spoken with people who reside on that street. They do not want more parking there.
 - i. Assemblyman Dinowitz asked if a different proposal could be supported: establish a no standing zone going north from the exit of the 3701 HHP garage. Replace this proposal with a request for a sign saying “No Standing Anytime.” The zone would extend from the edge of the garage to the service entrance of The Blackstone.

- b. Don Blustone of 3755 HHP wants to leave it the way it is. There are a lot of kids, school buses, meals on wheels, frail people getting picked up and dropped off. Parking spots would block views and create issues. There are 3 garages that open to HHP. Kids from the middle school and HS cross the street without any attention to traffic or safety.
- c. Shapiro chair of the Blackstone Board had requested a circular driveway but DOT said no due to safety.
- d. Chair Padernacht stated that a compromise would be to extend a 16 foot daylighting section north of the 3701 parking garage entrance.

Chair Padernacht presented the following resolution to the Committee:

WHEREAS, Bronx Community Board 8 acknowledges and understands the lack of on-street parking within the Community District and always seeks additional parking where possible in the Community District; and

WHEREAS, the NYC Department of Transportation has proposed additional parking along Henry Hudson Parkway West between West 237th Street and West 239th Street; and

WHEREAS, testimony has been presented against the additional on-street parking proposed by DOT for safety reasons and quality of life reasons by neighboring buildings;

BE IT RESOLVED, that Bronx Community Board No. 8 requests that the NYC Department of Transportation implement a No Standing zone starting at the northerly end of the parking garage entrance to 3701 Henry Hudson Parkway West and extending 16 feet north from that point in order to daylight the garage entrance at that location.

3. Chair Padernacht asked the committee to begin thinking of ideas for a community event.

4. Review of the minutes from the October 18th meeting.

In favor: Dan Padernacht, Myra Joyce, Eric Dinowitz, Margaret Donato, Ed Green,
Herb Young

Opposed: None

Abstained: I William Stone

5. Old and New Business

- a. Jordan Moss spoke about the poor condition of the Summit step street. They continue to request rehab of the street through the DOT. Nivardo Lopez contacted Chair of T&T Padernacht and was told that it's on the winter repair priority list. DOT placed it on FY 2020 for capital projects. There is currently no funding for this and there's no guarantee for funding. Jordan asked if they should reach out to Councilman Cabrera's office and was advised to do so. Jordan also brought up an enhanced crosswalk that needs a stop sign. Dan said he would follow up with Nivardo.

- b. Amy Dennis – neighborhood resident 3210 Riverdale Ave spoke about the parking situation at “The Learning Experience” day care center. Parents find it necessary to double park to drop off their kids and they are getting tickets. They are asking for designated pick up and drop off spaces in front of the building at specific times. Chair Padernacht explained that the committee normally requests parking restrictions for school buses during certain hours. Padernacht stated that there are dozens of private day care centers in the Community Board and if the committee recommended one for this business, they would be requested to do for other businesses. Chair Padernacht also added that the day care center must have identified this issue when it chose a location for its business.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00pm

Submitted by Myra Joyce, Vice-Chair