

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING HELD ON APRIL 7, 2009 AT MARBLE HILL COMMUNITY CENTER, 5365 BROADWAY

PRESENT: R. Abbott, B. Bender, D. Bowden, A. P. Cassino, A. P. Creaney, W. S. Dolny, T. C. Durham, A. Fana, R. Fanuzzi, A. G. Feldmeier, P. Friedman, T. Giallorenzi, J. Goris, V. Gray, M. Katzenstein, G. O. Koppell, I. Ladimer, B. Maybury, D. McShane, J. Plaza, J. Reyes, S. Scheinbach, I. W. Stone, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

ABSENT: T. Feerick, B. Feinberg, B. Fettman, A. Goldman, M. Khury, C. G. Moerdler, K. O'Brien, J. O'Reilly, K. Pesce, J. M. Pilsner, C. Prentice, L. Spalter, B. Trebach, E. Tossas Tucker

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

GUESTS: J. Dinowitz – State Assemblyman
G. O Koppell – City Councilman
M. Martinez – City Councilman
R. Fedderman – rep. Congressman Eliot Engel
A. Zamcheck – rep. State Senator Jeffrey Klein
M. Meade – rep. State Senator Eric Schneiderman
J. Sonett – rep. State Senator Malcolm Smith
R. Martos – Office of Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz
A. Keefe – Office of Councilman G. Oliver Koppell
A. Ferreira – Office of Councilman Miguel Martinez
T. Lucania – rep. Borough President Earl Brown
S. Alexander
L. Acevedo – Jerome Park Library
H. Barret – Memorial Grove Restoration
M. Borell
A. Cohen
N. Crespo
J. DeSio – Riverdale Review
J. Jacobs – American Italian Cancer Foundation
Capt. A. Lindquist – 50th Police Precinct
R. Montesano – Fire Department NY
R. Press – Bronx News
Det. L. Rodriguez – 50th Police Precinct
M. Rosen
C. Ynlanse

Chairman McShane convened the meeting at 7:45 PM.

Gallery Session

- A. Jessica Jacobs, American Italian Cancer Foundation (AICF), presented information on their Mobile Mammography Program. AICF has been providing no-cost breast cancer screening to medically underserved women for over 20 years. AICF partners with licensed, accredited mammography providers who perform the medical services and operate the equipment. Organizations requesting the service are responsible for the promotion of screening days, parking van arrangements; private room reservation, bathroom access, interpreter, and appointments. For further information call 212-628-9090.
- B. Irving Ladimer invited all to attend the free lunch recognizing Schervier Interfaith Caregivers on April 26th, at 10:30 A.M.
- C. Herb Barrett asked for support in pressing the Parks Department for a start date for the restoration project of Van Cortlandt Park's Veterans Memorial Grove. He mentioned the Riverdale Press news clipping "eyesore of week" in the area of Kingsbridge Avenue and West 231st Street. He requested that the Alternate Side Parking (ASP) regulations not be reduced along Broadway and Marble Hill areas. A. Cassino responded to the latter, stating that commercial strips would not be subject to ASP.

- 1. Approval of Regular Board Meeting Minutes of March 10, 2009

Minutes approved unanimously.

- 2. Discussion of Executive Board Meeting Minutes of April 1, 2009

S. Scheinbach amended the last statement of the Environment & Sanitation Committee minutes to reflect that he spoke with the Bureau Chief of Auto Crimes.

- 3. Chairman welcomed Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz; Councilman G. O. Koppell; Councilman Miguel Martinez; Richard Fedderman, representing Congressman Eliot Engel; Judith Sonett, representing State Senator Malcolm Smith; Abraham Zamcheck, representing State Senator Jeffrey Klein; Michael Meade, representing State Senator Eric Schneiderman; Randi Martos, Office of Assemblyman Dinowitz; Aya Keefe, Office of Councilman G. Oliver Koppell; Ariel Ferreira, Office of Councilman Miguel Martinez; Thomas Lucania, representing Bronx Borough President Earl Brown; Captain Albert Lindquist and Luis Rodriguez, 50th Police Precinct; Roger Montesano, Fire Department; Liana Acevedo, Jerome Park Library; John DeSio, Riverdale Review; and Robert Press, Bronx News.

- 4. Chairman invited Captain Lindquist to address the Board.

Captain Lindquist reported on a recent homicide of a 27 year old male which occurred last week in the Kingsbridge section. Rapes are down 66% with 1 for the year; robbery down 31%; felony assaults up 75%; burglaries down 40%; grand larceny up 20%; grand larceny auto up with 2 for the year. There will be

extra patrols during the Passover at critical locations and the 50th precinct will be working with Citywide Solutions on graffiti in the area.

5. Chairman invited Councilman G. O Koppell to address the Board.

Councilman Koppell reported that the Whitehall Annex would be returned as of September 2009 for use by PS 24. A Gifted and Talented (G&T) program at PS 24 for kindergarten through 5th grades will begin operation in September, and he also recommended a G&T program at PS 7. The Department of Education is reviewing issues concerning Principal Scharper at PS 24. The Councilman supports a proposed new school for Bronx Community Board 8. City Council heard testimony from the Bronx Delegation of District Managers on the Community Boards' budget, and the Council will try to restore cuts. The Councilman thanked Board Member Saul Scheinbach for presenting testimony before the City Council on a bill dealing with banning A-Frame signs on sidewalks. There will be no teacher lay-offs with the help of the stimulus package and summer youth jobs are in great abundance this year.

6. Chairman invited Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz to address the Board.

Assemblyman Dinowitz discussed the logistics of siting a new school in the district and was not in favor of the Department of Education's proposal. He discussed the benefits of school rezoning to relieve the problem of overcrowding in the district and that the State budget produced no education cuts or health care cuts. However, there was a new five cent deposit that was imposed on water bottles, and he was trying to avert a toll on the West 225th Street Broadway Bridge.

7. Chairman invited Councilman Miguel Martinez to address the Board.

Councilman Martinez welcomed the Board to the Marble Hill Houses and stated that coming to this part of the community demonstrated the commitment that the Board had to all of its residents. He discussed the hardships of MTA's fare hikes and announced that he was hosting a Town Hall meeting for Marble Hill on April 16th. He added that he was working with Councilman Koppell on community issues that were shared by their congruent districts. The Councilman thanked the Board's Housing Committee Chair Tom Durham for his assistance at the recent Promenade Apartments Town Hall meeting.

8. Chairman's Report

- Thanked the Marble Hill Houses for hosting the meeting.
- Thanked NY Yankees for their generosity in providing free tickets to the Community Board for workout day in the new stadium and the Chairman thanked the Board's staff for working to distribute the tickets.
- By request of the Office of Management and Budget, a plan on the proposed Board budget cuts has been submitted.
- Chairman announced with sorrow the passing of the mother of Board Member Karen Pesce. A sympathy card from the Board and staff was sent.

9. Report from the Office of the Borough President – T. Lucania

- Board appointment letters will be postponed until late May following the election of the new Bronx Borough President.
- Announced and distributed flyers for the following: 6th Annual Israeli Independence Day Festival being held April 29th, 4:30 PM to 8:30 PM, on Independence Avenue between West 232nd and West 235th Streets; 2nd Annual It's Your Identify, Protect It Shred Fest will be held May 3rd at various locations throughout the City. Bronx site will be in Bronx Park; Cash for Guns program will be held on April 25th at various Bronx churches. Anyone surrendering a gun will receive a \$200 bank card.

10. Election of the Nominating Committee

Chairman McShane opened the floor for nominations. The following seven candidates were nominated: T. Durham, A. Fana, P. Friedman, A. Goldman, K. Pesce, J. Reyes and B. Trebach. The Chair called for a paper ballot election to select five members.

The votes cast for each of the seven nominees were as following:

T. Durham:

Vote: 19 In Favor, 5 Opposed, and 0 Abstentions

In Favor -

R. Abbott, B. Bender, D. Bowden, A. P. Cassino, A. P. Creaney, W. S. Dolny, T. Durham, R. Fanuzzi, A. G. Feldmeier, P. Friedman, T. Giallorenzi, J. Goris, V. Gray, I. Ladimer, J. Plaza, J. Reyes, S. Scheinbach, I. W. Stone, M. Wolpoff

Opposed –

A. Fana, M. Katzenstein, B. Maybury, D. McShane, H. Young

A. Fana:

Vote: 8 In favor, 16 opposed, 0 abstentions

In Favor -

B. Bender, A. P. Cassino, A. Fana, A. G. Feldmeier, J. Goris, V. Gray, D. McShane, S. Scheinbach

Opposed –

R. Abbott, D. Bowden, A. P. Creaney, W. S. Dolny, T. Durham, R. Fanuzzi, P. Friedman, T. Giallorenzi, M. Katzenstein, I. Ladimer, B. Maybury, J. Plaza, J. Reyes, I. W. Stone, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

P. Friedman:

Vote: 19 In Favor, 5 Opposed, and 0 Abstentions

In Favor -

R. Abbott, B. Bender, D. Bowden, A. P. Creaney, W. S. Dolny, T. Durham, A. Fana, R. Fanuzzi, A. G. Feldmeier, P. Friedman, T. Giallorenzi, M. Katzenstein, I. Ladimer, D. McShane, J. Reyes, S. Scheinbach, I. W. Stone, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

Opposed -

A. P. Cassino, J. Goris, V. Gray, B. Maybury, J. Plaza

A. Goldman:

Vote: 12 In Favor, 12 Opposed, and 0 Abstentions

In Favor -

A. P. Cassino, W. S. Dolny, T. Durham, P. Friedman, T. Giallorenzi, B. Maybury, D. McShane, J. Plaza, J. Reyes, I. W. Stone, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

Opposed -

R. Abbott, B. Bender, D. Bowden, A. P. Creaney, A. Fana, R. Fanuzzi, A. G. Feldmeier,
J. Goris, V. Gray, M. Katzenstein, I. Ladimer, S. Scheinbach

K. Pesce:

Vote: 20 In Favor, 4 Opposed, and 0 Abstentions

In Favor -

R. Abbott, B. Bender, D. Bowden, A. P. Cassino, A. P. Creaney, A. Fana, R. Fanuzzi,
A. G. Feldmeier, P. Friedman, J. Goris, V. Gray, M. Katzenstein, I. Ladimer, D. McShane, J. Plaza, J. Reyes, S. Scheinbach, I. W. Stone, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

Opposed –

W. S. Dolny, T. Durham, T. Giallorenzi, B. Maybury

J. Reyes:

Vote: 18 In Favor, 6 Opposed, and 0 Abstentions

In Favor –

R. Abbott, D. Bowden, A. P. Creaney, W. S. Dolny, T. Durham, A. Fana, R. Fanuzzi,
A. G. Feldmeier, P. Friedman, J. Goris, M. Katzenstein, I. Ladimer, B. Maybury, J. Plaza, J. Reyes, I. W. Stone, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

Opposed –

A. P. Cassino, T. Giallorenzi, V. Gray, D. McShane,

B. Trebach:

Vote: 15 In Favor, 9 Opposed, and 0 Abstentions

In Favor –

R. Abbott, B. Bender, A. P. Cassino, A. P. Creaney, W. S. Dolny, T. Durham, A. Fana, R. Fanuzzi, T. Giallorenzi, J. Goris, B. Maybury, D. McShane, J. Plaza, S. Scheinbach, H. Young

Opposed –

D. Bowden, A. G. Feldmeier, P. Friedman, V. Gray, M. Katzenstein, I. Ladimer, J. Reyes, I. W. Stone, M. Wolpoff

The following members were elected to serve on the Nominating Committee: T. Durham, P. Friedman, K. Pesce, J. Reyes, and B. Trebach,

11. Report of the Treasurer – J. Reyes

The subcommittee for research on Board fundraising will be meeting within the month and Board members will be invited.

12. Committee Reports –

A. Public Safety – A. G. Feldmeier

The following resolutions were presented by the Committee:

1. **WHEREAS**, Ireland's Own Bar, doing business at 6661 Broadway has a history of reported criminal activity, public nuisance and inadequate security, including drugs and guns found in a back room, a felony assault and summonses from municipal agencies for unsanitary conditions; and

WHEREAS, since the above liquor license holder has already ceased doing business; and

WHEREAS, on the recommendation of the 50th Police Precinct;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Bronx Community Board No. 8 recommends that Ireland's Own Bar lose its liquor license.

Vote: 22 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention, and 1 abstention with cause

In Favor –

R. Abbott, B. Bender, D. Bowden, A. P. Cassino, A. P. Creaney, W. S. Dolny, T. C. Durham, A. Fana, A. G. Feldmeier, P. Friedman, T. Giallorenzi, V. Gray, M. Katzenstein, I. Ladimer, B. Maybury, D. McShane, J. Plaza, J. Reyes, S. Scheinbach, I. W. Stone, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

Abstention
R. Fanuzzi

Abstention With Cause
J. Goris

2. **WHEREAS**, The Connecting Bar, doing business at 6697 Broadway has a history of reported violent incidents, criminal activity and public nuisance: including a shooting, an arrest for criminal possession of a weapon (brass knuckles), an arrest by Yonkers Police for possession of a gun, community complaints about unreasonable noise, summonses for unlicensed security guards and summonses for underage drinking; and

WHEREAS, since the above liquor license holder has already ceased doing business; and

WHEREAS, on the recommendation of the 50th Police Precinct;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Bronx Community Board No. 8 recommends that The Connecting Bar lose its liquor license.

Vote: 22 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention, and 1 abstention with cause

R. Abbott, B. Bender, D. Bowden, A. P. Cassino, A. P. Creaney, W. S. Dolny, T. C. Durham, A. Fana, A. G. Feldmeier, P. Friedman, T. Giallorenzi, V. Gray, M. Katzenstein, I. Ladimer, B. Maybury, D. McShane, J. Plaza, J. Reyes, S. Scheinbach, I. W. Stone, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

Abstention
R. Fanuzzi

Abstention With Cause
J. Goris

B. Traffic and Transportation – A. P. Cassino

1. Kappock Street retaining wall reconstruction will be completed by the end of April.
2. Alternate Side Parking regulation changes will be in place by summer.
3. The infamous NYPD Traffic Agent T. Flight, who is under investigation for issuing bogus tickets, is now assigned to the Norwood section.
4. A joint meeting with Parks and Recreation Committee will be held on April 29th. Discussion will include DOT’s bike path installation from West 242nd Street and Van Cortlandt Park to Broadway Bridge; status of list of bike racks requests; and Henry Hudson Parkway designation.

C. Aging

1. A. Creaney reported on behalf of K. Pesce and referred to the minutes for a full report.
2. A. Creaney advised of his recent attendance at a City Council meeting to hear budget discussions, and reported that at that time there were no plans to cut senior service budgets.

D. Economic Development – R. Fanuzzi

1. The Marble Hill area has been targeted for the site of a Farmer's Market.
2. Thanked Borough President's Office for development of new website "Not for Profit Corner."
3. NYC Business Solutions met with the Committee.
4. The next meeting will be held on April 30th, at Tucci Art Gallery, 5622 Mosholu Avenue, at 7:30 PM. Libraries and Cultural Affairs Committee Board members are invited to attend.

E. Education – D. Bowden

1. Conveyed gratitude to both Assemblyman Dinowitz and Councilman Koppell for their efforts with achieving the return of the Whitehall Annex.
2. Touched on the situation concerning PS 24's Principal, adding that the problem should be handled internally.
3. The Committee will meet on April 28th and will discuss Mayoral control of schools, and prioritize budget requests for Fiscal Year 2011.

F. Environment and Sanitation – S. Scheinbach

1. Proliferation of illegal signs continues. Discussed his testimony at the City Council earlier during the day with respect to the A-Frame signs bill.
2. Reviewed regulations for graffiti on private property.
3. Urged reporting of illegally placed signs and posters.
4. Dumpsters for chomezst disposal that precedes Passover will be placed at two locations on April 8th in proximity of Riverdale Jewish Center, 3700 Independence Avenue, and Young Israel Ohab-Zedek, 6015 Riverdale Avenue.

G. Health, Hospitals & Social Services – M. Katzenstein

1. March Committee meeting included a presentation by Make a Wish Foundation. Their programs include chronically ill children under the age of 16. Dr. Katzenstein can be contacted on referrals.
2. EMS union representatives discussed budget cuts. The Committee will continue to follow-up.
3. A survey on the availability of staff pediatricians in Bronx hospital emergency rooms was completed by D. Bay of the Board Office. Elected officials will be asked to review the issue of children in the Montefiore Hospital Emergency Room having to wait five hours for pediatric doctors.

H. Housing – T. Durham

1. Refer to Committee minutes for full report.
2. Management for Promenade Apartments is invited to the next Committee meeting on April 22nd, at the Board Office, at 7:30 PM.
3. A Stop Work Order is in effect at 3882 Cannon Place, and the official ruling on the application will be forthcoming from the Department of Buildings.

4. A new regulation for community challenges on certain neighborhood development has been implemented.

I. Land Use

1. M. Wolpoff reported in the absence of C. Moerdler that the Land Use Committee will meet on April 27th, at Riverdale Jewish Center, at 7:30 PM. C. Moerdler will make a report on his meeting with Landmarks Preservation Commission regarding the proposed rules for the Fieldston Historic District.
2. Discussion ensued on the issue reported in the Executive Board minutes relating to a resolution regarding the zoning of Congressman Engel's district office. Chairman advised that the matter will be laid over to the Committee for appropriate action.

J. Libraries & Cultural Affairs – R. Abbott

1. Three BRIO (Bronx Recognizes Its Own) award winners will perform at Christ Church as follows: April 17th – Jazz; May 17th – Classical; and June 7th – Pop and Gospel. All performances will be held at 3:00 PM.
2. Community Services Award – The deadline is April 17th for nominations for Community Board 8's Community Service Award. There is no limit for submissions.

L. Parks & Recreation – B. Bender

1. Refer to Committee minutes for report. The Committee will meet jointly with Traffic & Transportation Committee on April 29th, and will discuss Henry Hudson Parkway designation; and hear a presentation from the new Van Cortlandt Park Conservancy.
2. There will be a planting activity in Seton Park on April 25th in recognition of Earth Day.

Meeting adjourned 9:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Manning
Community Associate