

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8**

**MINUTES OF THE AGING COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON DECEMBER 17, 2013 AT  
RIVERDALE SENIOR SERVICES**

**PRESENT**

Anthony Creaney  
Lisa Daub  
Beverly Fettman  
Marvin Goodman  
Robert Press  
Georgia Santiago

**AFFILIATION**

CB8  
CB8  
CB8  
CB8  
CB8  
CB8

Robert Ackerson  
Wendy Bolton  
Sara Goldberg  
Grace Guthrie  
Shirley Keegan  
Mildred Kramer  
Ariela Perez  
Alvin Shatkin

Riverdale Senior Services  
Riverdale Senior Services  
Riverdale Senior Services, Member  
Riverdale Senior Services, Member  
Riverdale Senior Services, Member  
Riverdale Senior Services, Member  
Park Gardens CHHA  
Riverdale Senior Services, Volunteer

The meeting commenced at 2:10 PM with participant introductions. We adjusted topics and sequencing to consider participant interest and inclement weather travel.

**Access A Ride** – Participants discussed the benefits of taxi voucher v. current vans, and raised concerns regarding rule changes that became effective October 28<sup>th</sup>. A participant alleged that drivers do not check IDs, allowing non-eligible riders to use the service. Participants would like the Aging Committee to invite a representative from Access A Ride to speak at a meeting in March or April.

**Caregiver Support** – Wendy Bolton discussed Riverdale Senior Services' (RSS) caregiver support group and social adult day program. Adult Day programs provide needed respite for caregivers in addition to benefiting participants. Caring for people with dementia is especially draining. We discussed concerns about the rapid growth of adult day programs [topic raised in previous committee meetings and in the news] due to new Medicaid coverage. Wendy pointed out that newer programs are not generally dementia specific due to need for higher staff to client ratio. Most referrals to RSS come from word of mouth and Alzheimer's Association. RSS's Caregiver Support Group started 11 years ago for adult children who are caring for aging parents. It meets twice per month on Monday evenings and averages eight participants. An assessment of participants is first conducted as this is not a "drop-in" program. The primary goal is to meet caregivers' emotional needs. RSS refers information seekers to the Alzheimer's Association. Lisa Daub mentioned the Riverdale Y's Social Day Program and upcoming caregiver support group, and Congregation Tehillah's Caregiver Support Group. She noted that other faith-based organizations may also offer services and area nursing homes may offer

groups for their residents' caregivers. The group also discussed the lack of support opportunities for aging parents who care for disabled children. We discussed ways to raise community awareness of local services. An RSS member suggested contacting Assemblyman Dinowitz's office to include information in local directory.

**Talking Traffic Light** – An RSS member said that it took 16 years to get the talking traffic light for people who are visually impaired installed on Netherland Avenue, near RSS. It is the only one installed in the Bronx and more are needed, especially near large shopping areas. The RSS member is in touch with Senator Klein's office. Robert Press volunteered to raise this at the next Traffic and Transportation Committee meeting.

**Minutes of November 22, 2013 Aging Committee Meeting** – Approved by all 5 members in attendance with the following amendments: (1) add Georgia Santiago as present, and (2) correct to state that Amalgamated Housing has the only NORC in Bronx CB8 district, not the only NORC in the Bronx.

**Posting Recorded Minutes** – Committee members discussed uploading recordings of committee meetings to the CB8 website, as raised in the December 4<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee meeting. The majority of Aging Committee members present are not in favor of this proposal since the posting of recordings may inhibit discussion of important issues. Written minutes should be informative and there is no objection to the recording of meetings as a tool to help with this purpose.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 PM.

Next Meeting: January 21, 2014, 3:30 PM. Location (TBD)

Submitted by,

Lisa Daub

Aging Committee Member