

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
HELD ON OCTOBER 8, 2013
AT THE RIVERDALE YM/YWHA, 5625 ARLINGTON AVENUE**

PRESENT: S. Alexander, S. Balicer, B. Bender, B. Contant, A. P. Creaney, L. Daub, M. Donato, P. Ellis, A. Garbett Feldmeier, A. Fella, B. Fettman, P. Friedman, S. Froot, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, M. Heller, M. Khury, D. Kirksey-Floyd, D. Kornbluh, I. Ladimer, D. Lennon, S. Marquez, C. G. Moerdler, A. Moore, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, J. M. Pilsner, A. Piscitelli, R. Pochter-Lowe, R. Press, J. Rather, J. Reyes, X. Sanchez, G. Singleton, L. Spalter, A. A. Spett, I. W. Stone, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, H. Young, M. Zegarra-Soja

ABSENT: S. Catechis, R. Fanuzzi, M. Galvin, T. Lim, P. Mullen, P. Reyes, G. Santiago

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

GUESTS: J. Dinowitz – Assemblyman
A. Cohen – Council Democratic Elect
M. Blaustein - rep. State Senator Jeffrey Klein
J. Denko – Office of Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz
D. Ojeda – rep. Congressman Eliot Engel
A. Sandler, Office of Councilman G. Oliver Koppell
A. Toledo, rep. Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.
N. Lopez – Mayor’s Office, CAU
Capt. P. Rasa – NYPD, 50th Police Precinct
P. O. S. Cordero – NYPD, 50th Police Precinct
J. Horstman – Bronx Department of City Planning
R. Barbier
F. Barret – Memorial Grove
H. Barret – Memorial Grove
H. Bien
H. Camacho – Riverdale Review
A. Cohn
S. Corber
O. Coriano
A. Deleon
D. Dolan
M. Ermeyer
F. Garfinkel
M. Joyce
C. Keeling
L. Hogan
J. Ludemann
D. May
A. Marrero
P. Moerdler
J. Owens, Jr.
A. Rivera
R. Riro, Jr.
J. Scaborough

G. Steinmetz
R. Strugger
M. Turov
A. Vazquez

Vice Chair Khury convened the meeting at 7:35 PM.

Vice Chair Khury informed that Chairman Fanuzzi was away at a work conference in Paris.

PUBLIC HEARING: Capital & Expense Budget Requests for Fiscal Year (FY) 2015

Vice Chair Khury deferred to Budget Chairman Contant to convene the public hearing on the Board's Budget Priorities for FY 2015.

Budget Chairman Contant thanked the Committee Chairs for their work with development of the committees Budget Priorities requests for FY 2015, and he thanked District Manager Stent for her involvement and attendance at budget consultations and assistance with the priorities. He referred to the list of both Capital and Expense budget priorities which had been reviewed by the Executive Committee and distributed to the full Board. The priorities ranking of the 25 Capital budget requests and the 19 Expense budget requests were reviewed and discussed. Following, there was agreement to provide a higher ranking for the request for an EMS restocking and decontamination station which was switched from 19 to 10 under Capital.

The Budget Chairman opened the floor to the public for anyone wishing to give testimony on the FY 2015 Budget requests. He called upon Rebecca Barbier, representing New York Public Library (NYPL).

R. Barbier thanked the Board for having listed library budget priorities amongst the top five Capital Budget items. She discussed NYPL's budget requests and distributed the list of priorities which were mostly contained in Bronx Community Board No. 8's Capital Budget Priorities for FY 2015.

Not hearing from any additional speakers, Budget Chairman Contant closed the Public Hearing and called for a vote on the Capital and Expense Budget Priorities for FY 2015 as amended (attached). The motion was seconded and the following vote resulted:

Vote: 42 In Favor, 0 Opposed, and 0 Abstentions

In Favor –

S. Alexander, S. Balicer, B. Bender, B. Contant, A. P. Creaney, L. Daub, M. Donato, P. Ellis, A. Garbett Feldmeier, A. Fella, B. Fettman, P. Friedman, S. Froot, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, M. Heller, M. Khury, D. Kirksey-Floyd, D. Kornbluh, I. Ladimer, D. Lennon, S. Marquez, C. G. Moerdler, A. Moore, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, J. M. Pilsner, A. Piscitelli, R. Pochter-Lowe, R. Press, J. Rather, J. Reyes, X. Sanchez, G. Singleton, L. Spalter, A. A. Spett, I. W. Stone, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, H. Young, M. Zegarra-Soja

1. Gallery Session

- A. Herb Barret, reported on the Memorial Grove's one and a half year anniversary restoration. He invited all to the annual Veterans Day Ceremony on November 10, 2013, at 12:00 PM being held at the Grove at West 246th Street and Broadway.
- B. Leslie Hogan, a member of Broadway Community Alliance discussed opposition to the Selfhelp development at 6469 Broadway that had included a population of seniors with mental

illness mixed with well elderly. She thanked the Community Board, and elected officials, for their responsiveness to the community residents in working together to oppose the component of an unstable mental population. She spoke about the news conference held by Senator Klein where he announced that due to community opposition, Communitlife, who had partnered with Selfhelp to provide housing to seniors with mental illness, had withdrawn from the project. However, Ms. Hogan stated that there are still some issues with the plans and asked that the Community Board and elected officials continue to work with the Alliance for development of the property in an appropriate and responsible manner.

- C. Fran Garfinkel advised about upgrades needed at the Seton Park dog run. The users are a group of 50 and have already raised some funds. Improvements needed include a gate, a fence and removal of tree roots that are hazardous to dog owners. Dog waste disposal bags are also needed.
- B. Bender invited the group to attend the next Parks and Recreation Committee meeting to discuss the issues.
- D. Susan Corber spoke about opposition to paving the Putnam Trail. She reviewed the high cost of maintaining the paved trail. Ms. Corber urged Community Board 8 to preserve the 1.5 miles natural Putnam trail that remains.
- E. Roberta Strugger spoke on behalf of dog owners who use the Fort Independence Park dog run. She reported that the dog run was recently locked without notice to the community since construction started on the Jerome Park Reservoir jogging trail, nor has an alternate space been offered. She asked for Community Board 8's support to extend the trail through the park.
- D. Padernact suggested clarifying those issues with B. Fanuzzi who sits as Chair on the Croton Filtration Monitoring Committee. B. Bender advised that he was not aware that the dog run had been shut and would check with the Parks Department the next day.

2. Approval of Regular Board Meeting Minutes of September 11, 2013

The minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Discussion of Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of October 2, 2013

- M. Heller referred to his comment under New Business concerning favoring one venue for Board meetings. He will send a statement to be included in the minutes explaining why he thinks this is a good idea.
- R. Press referred to New Business, 2nd bullet. He apologized and took responsibility for the lack of submission of any Traffic & Transportation Committee minutes which he recorded and failed to provide to D. Padernacht.
- M. Wolpoff referred to the Land Use Committee report, page 3. He advised that his name was omitted as being an attendee at the meeting concerning Selfhelp's project at 6469 Broadway held with the Borough President. M. Khury stated it will be added.

4. Vice Chair Khury welcomed and invited Captain Paul Rasa, new 50th Precinct Commander to address the Board.

Captain Rasa advised that he was recently assigned to the 50th Precinct. He provided information on his background and advised that he is a 20 year veteran of the police force. His command has 150 officers. Captain Rasa reviewed the year to date crime stats as follows:

murder: 2 vs. 4 last year; rape: 1 vs. 7; robbery: 113 vs. 108; felony assault: 114 vs. 97, burglary: 118 vs. 144, grand larceny: 307 vs. 318; grand larceny auto 68 vs. 76; and transit crimes: 7 vs. 11. Overall crime is down 4%. He warned of active cell phone and iPhone snatching patterns on Manhattan College Parkway late nights and during the daytime in the area of Reservoir Avenue. 1,100 arrests have been made year to date.

5. Vice Chair Khury invited Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz to address the Board.

Assemblyman Dinowitz announced the schedule for the annual Free Flu Shots: October 10, 2013 at St. Gabriel's School; October 17, 2013 at Vladek Hall; and October 28, 2013 at Riverdale YM-YWHA. He discussed new construction projects across the community and asked the Board to be vigilant in making sure that zoning compliance is in order.

6. Report from the Office of the Bronx Borough President – A. Toledo

- With regard to the recent violent tragic incident with a motorist and bikers on the Westside Highway, Borough President Diaz, Jr. is proposing legislation to prohibit refueling of "dirt bikes" at gas stations. The gas station owners will be held in violation for allowing the refueling.
- The 19th Annual Tour de Bronx will be held October 27, 2013. Register at ILovethebronx.com.

7. Chairman's Report – Vice Chair Maria Khury

- The Chairman's report is contained in the Executive Committee minutes.
- Vice Chair Khury added information regarding the press conference held on October 3rd for the installation of security cameras at Marble Hill Houses, and the Street Co-Naming Ceremony for James Downey held on October 5th on Mosholu Avenue between West 254th and 255th Streets.
- B. Contant and P. Friedman discussed the online presentation given at the Executive Committee meeting and distributed to the Board. They are working on developing a method of using electronic media for the benefit of broadcasting important issues to the Board's constituents. The aim is to build an email database. Volunteers for this project are welcomed. P. Friedman has already contacted other community boards throughout the city to gather input on systems they use for providing information to the community. There have been three replies thus far and one, Brooklyn Community Board 6 had a very interesting response. The responses will be forwarded to the Board.

8. Treasurer's Report – P. Friedman

No report.

9. District Manager's Report – N. Stent

The District Manager's report is contained in the Executive Committee minutes. She highlighted the FY 2015 Bronx Borough Consultations that had occurred.

10. Election to Fill Aging Committee Chair Vacancy Pursuant to Bylaws, Article V, Sec 3

- Vice Chair Khury extended special appreciation to A. Cohen, for his past service as Committee Chair of the Aging Committee.
- Vice Chair Khury opened the floor for nominations for the Chair of the Aging Committee. I. Ladimer nominated K. Pesce and she accepted. The nomination was seconded. Hearing no

other nominations, the nominations were closed. A vote was called for the election of K. Pesce. The vote was unanimously in favor.

Vote: 41 In Favor, 0 Opposed, and 0 Abstentions

In Favor –

S. Alexander, S. Balicer, B. Bender, B. Contant, A. P. Creaney, L. Daub, M. Donato, P. Ellis, A. Garbett Feldmeier, A. Fella, B. Fettman, P. Friedman, S. Froot, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, M. Heller, M. Khury, D. Kornbluh, I. Ladimer, D. Lennon, S. Marquez, C. G. Moerdler, A. Moore, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, J. M. Pilsner, A. Piscitelli, R. Pochter-Lowe, R. Press, J. Rather, J. Reyes, X. Sanchez, G. Singleton, L. Spalter, A. A. Spett, I. W. Stone, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, H. Young, M. Zegarra-Soja

11. Committee Reports

A. Law, Rules and Ethics – R. Ginty

1. The October Committee meeting has been changed to Tuesday, October 29th due to a community event at the College of Mount Saint Vincent being held on the Committee's regular meeting night of October 24th.
2. Announced that Irving Ladimer will make a presentation on the US Constitution at the Riverdale YM-YWHA on October 23rd at 10:00 AM. All are invited.

B. Libraries and Cultural Affairs – M. Goodman

1. The Committee will meet on October 10, 2013, at the Board Office, at 7:00 PM.
2. The new NYPL Library Director for district 8 will be in attendance to present on new features. The Library Managers will provide updates on new programs. M. Goodman emphasized that libraries are no longer just about books.

C. Parks and Recreation – B. Bender

1. On September 23, 2013, the New York State Department of Environmental Control (DEC) held a public hearing on the Putnam Trail to determine whether or not a wetland permit should be granted which is needed for the renovation of the trail. The hearing was held at Lehman College. There was a good turn out with over 45 speakers. The majority of speakers gave their support for paving the trail.
2. The Committee met on September 30, 2013 and Ewen Park was discussed. See Committee report.
3. On October 5th a street naming ceremony was held for James Downey on Mosholu Parkway between West 254th and 255th Streets. Over 200 people were in attendance.
4. The next Committee meeting will be held on October 23, 2013 at the newly renovated Van Cortlandt Park Golf House, at 7:00 PM. The Master Plan for Van Cortlandt Park will be discussed.

D. Public Safety – A. G. Feldmeier

1. A. G. Feldmeier will be speaking with the director of the Children's Aid Society to discuss their "Unsung Neighborhood Heroes" program which recognizes merchants that refuse to sell alcohol to minors. She is planning to work with the police for recommendations of worthy merchants deserving awards. She thanked Vice Chair Khury and S. Froot for informing her about the program.

2. A. G. Feldmeier was invited by the 50th Precinct to go on a 9/11 Memorial site tour on October 9, 2013. She will be unable to join the tour.
3. The following resolutions for liquor licenses passed by the Public Safety Committee on August 14, 2013 were presented:

I. RESOLVED, Bronx Community Board No. 8 approves the following **RENEWAL APPLICATIONS** for liquor licenses:

1. La Nueva Estrella Pizza & Deli Corp., 219 West 230th Street
2. Kelly Ryan's, 5790 Mosholu Avenue
3. Gourmet Dining LLC - 4513 Manhattan College Parkway, Thomas Hall

II. RESOLVED, Bronx Community Board No. 8 approves the following **NEW APPLICATIONS** for liquor license:

1. Palace of Japan, 3505 Johnson Avenue 234th & 235th Streets
2. The Nook, 111A West 225th Street

Vote: 41 In Favor, 0 Opposed, and 0 Abstentions

In Favor –

S. Alexander, S. Balicer, B. Bender, B. Contant, A. P. Creaney, L. Daub, M. Donato, P. Ellis, A. Garbett Feldmeier, A. Fella, B. Fettman, P. Friedman, S. Froot, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, M. Heller, M. Khury, D. Kornbluh, I. Ladimer, D. Lennon, S. Marquez, C. G. Moerdler, A. Moore, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, J. M. Pilsner, A. Piscitelli, R. Pochter-Lowe, R. Press, J. Rather, J. Reyes, X. Sanchez, G. Singleton, L. Spalter, A. A. Spett, I. W. Stone, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, H. Young, M. Zegarra-Soja

4. Resolutions for liquor licenses passed by the Public Safety Committee on September 23, 2013 were presented. The resolution for 3713 Riverdale Avenue was amended, and the following resolutions were voted on:

I. RESOLVED, Bronx Community Board No. 8 approves the following **RENEWAL APPLICATIONS** for liquor licenses:

1. Land and Sea Restaurant, 5535 Broadway

WHEREAS, Land & Sea Restaurant is an institution in our community, open 24 hours a day and serving a varied menu; and

WHEREAS, the 50th Precinct reports no problems with this establishment; and Following unanimous vote to approve from the Public Safety Committee,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Bronx Community Board 8 recommends renewal of this liquor license.

2. KBBQ Restaurant Corporation, 119 West Kingsbridge Road

WHEREAS, KBBQ enhances our community with take-out and eat-in service; and

WHEREAS, the 50th Precinct reports no problems with this establishment; and following unanimous vote to approve from the Public Safety Committee,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Bronx Community Board 8 recommends renewal of this liquor license.

3. Aoyu Sushi Inc., 3532-A Johnson Avenue

WHEREAS, Aoyu Sushi enhances our community by offering attractively served Asian lunches and dinners in a restful atmosphere; and

WHEREAS, the 50th Precinct reports no problems with this establishment; and

Following unanimous vote to approve from the Public Safety Committee,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Bronx Community Board 8 recommends renewal of this liquor license.

4. Fusion 1 Asian Bistro Inc., 3260 Johnson Avenue

WHEREAS, Fusion 1 Asian Bistro offers an inventive menu of Asian cuisine; and

WHEREAS, the 50th Precinct reports no problems with this establishment; and

Following unanimous vote to approve from the Public Safety Committee,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Bronx Community Board 8 recommends renewal of this liquor license.

II. **RESOLVED**, Bronx Community Board No. 8 approves the following **NEW APPLICATION** for liquor license:

1. 3713 Riverdale Avenue

WHEREAS, 3713 Riverdale Avenue, is being renovated, redecorated and re-opened by a new owner, with the proposed name of Blackstone's; and

WHEREAS, the new owner is a member of Bronx Community Board 8 and its Public Safety Committee, and was not present for vote on this application; and

WHEREAS, this owner has long-standing ties to our community and already operates a very popular coffee shop, along with members of his family; and

WHEREAS, the 50th Precinct reports no problems with this proposed new establishment; and

Following unanimous vote to approve from the other members of the Public Safety Committee,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Bronx Community Board 8 recommends approval of this new application for a liquor license.

Vote: 41 In Favor, 0 Opposed, and 0 Abstentions

In Favor –

S. Alexander, S. Balicer, B. Bender, B. Contant, A. P. Creaney, L. Daub, M. Donato, P. Ellis, A. Garbett Feldmeier, A. Fella, B. Fettman, P. Friedman, S. Froot, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, M. Heller, M. Khury, D. Kornbluh, I. Ladimer, D. Lennon, S. Marquez, C. G. Moerdler, A. Moore, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, J. M. Pilsner, A. Piscitelli, R. Pochter-Lowe, R. Press, J. Rather, J. Reyes, X. Sanchez, G. Singleton, L. Spalter, A. A. Spett, I. W. Stone, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, H. Young, M. Zegarra-Soja

It was noted that S. Catechis, Board Member and applicant for the liquor license at 3718 Riverdale Avenue was absent from the Board meeting and did not vote on the resolution pertaining.

E. Traffic & Transportation – D. Padernacht

1. The following resolutions for Street Activity Permits were presented and amended to include the event date for the Menorah Lighting Ceremony:

BE IT RESOLVED that the two Street Activity Permit Applications be approved:

- a. Riverdale Jewish Heritage Fair to be held on March 30, 2014 at Johnson Avenue between West 235th and W.236th Streets from 10am – 6pm. This event has been held in the past but was not held last year. Outside service vendors are expected but not known if there will be a charge to them. There will be about 20 volunteers on hand.
- b. Menorah Lighting Ceremony Event to be held on December 1, 2013. One lane of Northbound traffic on Riverdale Avenue and West 239th Street will be closed for the event between 3:45pm and 5:15pm. There are at least 6 police officers that direct traffic around the event and provide security.

Vote: 41 In Favor, 0 Opposed, and 0 Abstentions

In Favor –

S. Alexander, S. Balicer, B. Bender, B. Contant, A. P. Creaney, L. Daub, M. Donato, P. Ellis, A. Garbett Feldmeier, A. Fella, B. Fettman, P. Friedman, S. Froot, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, M. Heller, M. Khury, D. Kornbluh, I. Ladimer, D. Lennon, S. Marquez, C. G. Moerdler, A. Moore, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, J. M. Pilsner, A. Piscitelli, R. Pochter-Lowe, R. Press, J. Rather, J. Reyes, X. Sanchez, G. Singleton, L. Spalter, A. A. Spett, I. W. Stone, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, H. Young, M. Zegarra-Soja

2. D. Padernacht presented a resolution passed by the Committee concerning traffic control safety measures at West 259th Street and Netherland Avenue. Following discussion, the resolution was tabled until November in order to give notice about the request and meet with representatives of Skyview on the Hudson at the Committee meeting on October 15, 2013.

F. Youth – L. Parker

The Committee will meet on October 23, 2013, at Fort Independence Community Center, at 1:00 PM. The agenda will include discussion on “Come Back Kid” Award, update on Youth Job Fair, and Planning for Van Cortlandt Park Skating Event.

G. Aging – K. Pesce

No Report.

H. Budget – B. Contant

No further report.

I. Economic Development - S. Villaverde

1. Discussed the success of the South Riverdale Merchants Street Fair. He announced the sad news of the passing of Rose Milo, co-founder, member and organizer of the South Riverdale Merchants Association.
2. P. Ellis reported that he and Vice Chair Khury have had meetings with Equity One for a Resume Bank Program. They will be updated as to accountability on receipt of resumes and running newspaper advertisements. S. Villaverde noted that Equity One is working with P. Ellis and M. Khury voluntarily. He expressed his appreciation of P. Ellis and M. Khury's diplomacy in engaging Equity One to cooperate with the resume bank.
3. Vice Chair Khury advised that the mall at Riverdale Crossing's BJ's store is scheduled to open April 1, 2014.

J. Education – S. Alexander

1. The Committee did not meet in September.
2. The Committee will meet on October 22, 2013, at the Board office, at 7:30 PM. It will be an organizational meeting.
3. S. Alexander discussed rents for charter schools that co-exist in public schools buildings.

K. Environment and Sanitation – S. Marquez

1. Refer to Committee minutes.
2. The next meeting will be held on October 30, 2013.

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

1. Refer to Committee minutes.
2. The Underage Drinking Forum has been postponed until possibly November. More information will be forthcoming.
3. Announced the following events: Affordable Health Care Act Forum on October 10, 2013 at Jacobi Medical Center at 6:00 PM; and Children's Aid Society Seminar on the topic of alcohol sold to minors on October 18, 2013.

M. Housing – S. Balicer

1. The Committee did not meet in September.
2. Attended the ground breaking for security cameras at the NYCHA Marble Hill Houses. There will be 75 cameras installed throughout the NYCHA houses.
3. The Committee will meet on October 28, 2013, at the Board office, at 7:30 PM.

N. Land Use – C. Moerdler

The Committee will meet on October 31, 2013.

12. New Business

I. Ladimer announced the annual Legislative Awards Breakfast sponsored by Riverdale Jewish Community Relations Council will be held October 20, 2013 at the Riverdale YM-YWHA at 9:00 AM. Honorees include former Community Board 8 chair William Abramson and former member Ari Hoffnung.

Meeting adjourned 10:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Manning
Community Associate

Reviewed by,

Joyce Pilsner
Secretary