

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

MINUTES OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MAY 27, 2010 AT THE BOARD OFFICE, 5676 RIVERDALE AVENUE

ATTENDANCE

Robert Fanuzzi
Warren Dolny
Steven Froot
Ari Goldman
Linda Cohen
Laurel Noble
Tracy Shelton

AFFILIATION

Committee Chair, CB8
CB8
CB8
CB8
rep. Senator Jeffrey Klein
Riverdale Review
KRVCDC

- I. The minutes of the meeting of Monday, April 22 were read and passed.
- II. Chair's Report
 - A. Grow NYC, the Mayor's office non-profit agency, will open the Marble Hill and Riverdale Youthmarkets on July 8. With the assistance of CB8, the Department of Transportation will be holding a helmet giveaway at the Marble Hill location on this day.
- III. Budget Priorities

In consultation with city agencies and local non-profit economic development corporations, the committee is proposing these expense budget items for FY 2011-12:

 - A. Expense
 1. A satellite office or dedicated agent of NYC Business Solutions in CB8 so that local residents do not have to travel to 149th Street and the Grand Concourse, main Bronx office of this SBS contractor, to receive entrepreneurial training.
 2. Funding from SBS to support the Kingsbridge Riverdale Van Cortlandt Development Corporation's Energy Efficiency Project, which pays for energy audits of small businesses
 - B. Capital
 1. "Bishop's crook" decorative streetlights for South Riverdale Avenue commercial corridor to match those on the North Riverdale Avenue commercial corridor
 2. Funding from DOT for resurfacing of Broadway from West 234th Street to Van Cortlandt South.
- IV. Old Business
 - A. KRVCDC Director Tracy Shelton reported on several initiatives the local economic development corporation is pursuing:
 1. An Energy Efficiency Project, kicking off at the Green Tree Restaurant on June 15th at 7:30 a. m. Con Ed will be sponsoring energy audits for small businesses to reduce monthly electric bills.
 2. A series of Community Business Guides, both in print and online for restaurants, services, and stores in Community Board 8. R. Fanuzzi suggested that a separate guide be printed for independent professional service providers, such as yoga instructors.
 3. Plaza NYC

New details were provided about KRVCDC application for the triangle below Palumbo's Bakery:

 - a. The expense borne by a local non-profit/sponsor is \$16,000 a year, beginning in the fourth year of operation. KRVCDC already has a \$5000 commitment for that year.

- b. DOT invests \$150,000 over three years for capital and expense costs, covering maintenance for the first three years.
- c. KRVCDC is proposing to keep the parking spaces on the east side of Riverdale Avenue at West 235th Street, and to reduce the number on the west side from five to three. They propose to find the extra two spots near West 238th and Riverdale Avenue.
- d. Ms. Shelton will be presenting the amended proposal, with sample budgets, to the South Riverdale Avenue Merchants Association for their approval.

The members of the Economic Development Committee expressed support for this amended proposal, pending the official support of the SRAMA. R. Fanuzzi recommended that the Economic Development Committee and the Traffic and Transportation Committees meet on June 15 to publicly review the proposal and elicit opinion of nearby residents.

B. BOEDC GIS Mapping

R. Fanuzzi has been in touch with Ms. Monetta Wilson, technical specialist for BOEDC, and Kate Shackford, Associate Director of BOEDC, about creating an interactive commercial vacancy map for Community Board 8. BOEDC supplied R. Fanuzzi with forms for entering data, but he and the rest of the committee had some concerns about consent, privacy, and liability in the event that a landlord or agent does not want the information about their property made public. Ms. Shackford of BOEDC is consulting with its legal department to add the proper disclaimers and legal claims to the information gathering sheet it employs.

V. New Business

A. South Riverdale Avenue Arts Sidewalk Fair

Linda Klein of Senator Jeff Klein's office reported to the committee about the procedure to filing community use permits for the use of a sidewalk. R. Fanuzzi proposed that the committee and the Library and Cultural Affairs committee sponsor a sidewalk arts fair in the fall, which would be organized by the Bronx Council of the Arts and supported by local merchants. He has contacted Ed Friedman of Bronx Council of the Arts, who will be setting up a meeting with local merchants and the two relevant CB 8 committees to begin the planning process. With a 90 day application time frame, the fair is scheduled for Fall 2010. Members of the committee proposed that the local merchant's association pay for the use of the Bronx Culture Trolley to make sure people can reach the street and ensure maximum publicity.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50.

Respectfully submitted,

R. Fanuzzi
Chair, Economic Development Committee