

Pending Committee Approval
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES
HELD ON JUNE 3, 2020
VIDEO CONFERENCE

Committee Members Present (16)

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|-----------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Rosemary Ginty, Chair | Robert Fanuzzi | Laura Spalter |
| Sylvia Alexander | David Gellman | Sergio Villaverde |
| Bob Bender | Julia Gomez | Martin Wolpoff |
| Lisa Daub | Daris Jackson | Rosalind Zavras |
| Eric Dinowitz | Omar Murray | |
| Margaret Donato | Dan Padernacht | |

Committee Members Absent (1)

Charles Moerdler

Staff (1)

Ciara Gannon, District Manager

CB8 & Guests

Community attendees (1)

Chair Ginty welcomed everyone and convened the meeting at 7:30pm.

Minutes

- Minutes of May 6, 2020 Executive Committee approved:
In Favor (13): Bender, Daub, Dinowitz, Donato, Fanuzzi, Gellman, Ginty, Jackson, Murray, Spalter, Villaverde, Wolpoff, Zavras // Opposed: (0), Abstain (0)

Chair's Report – R. Ginty

- Chair will call for an executive session just prior to the conclusion of this meeting.
- June board meeting will be held at 7:00pm on June 9th. The meeting will include election of officers and chairs.
- Elections will follow the same process used at the June 2014 board meeting: The Nominating Committee will present their report and recommended slate of Officers and Chairs. Voting in two parts: Vote first for officers followed by committee chairs: (1) Nominations from floor, (2) If there are nominations for any officer position, CB members who wish to speak, will be given up to 1 minute, on behalf of a candidate when multiple nominees, (3) Each candidate may then speak, (3) Candidates may speak, (4) When multiple candidates for same position, in lieu of paper ballots, we will vote by private chat/phone/email to Secretary – as done for nominating committee in April. Executive committee members agreed with the process. R. Fanuzzi shared reminder that meeting may need to be turned over to next-in-line officer in certain situations. S. Villaverde clarified that the described process applies to contested positions. ¹

¹ For non-contested positions, we will vote by “raise hand” function. (LD)

Treasurer's Report – R. Zavras

- Treasurer shared this month's report that also includes the final budget modification to reallocate FY20 funds by object code and the FY21 operating budget.
- Lag time in OMB reports from when funds are encumbered results in approx. \$27k showing as excess OTPS. Excess PS due staffing vacancy period.
- Due to cancelled events, shifted bulk of special funding to office needs. DM listed reception area furniture, conference room equipment and PPE supplies (if approved) in anticipation of office reopening. This includes masks, hand sanitizer, gloves, no-touch dispensers and safety signage. Without city guidance, did not purchase protective furniture items such as plexiglass dividers.
- Proposed FY21 budget is fiscally prudent for a total of \$25k. Increased cleaning service to include sanitizing the office.
- Presented resolution for Budget Modification and adoption of FY21 Operating Budget:
In Favor (15): Alexander, Bender, Daub, Dinowitz, Donato, Fanuzzi, Gellman, Ginty, Jackson, Murray, Padernacht, Spalter, Villaverde, Wolpoff, Zavras // Opposed: (0), Abstain (0)

B. Bender and R. Ginty thanked Treasurer for her preparation and consistent clarity in presenting our budget. Also commended Treasurer and District Manager for their impressive planning that includes planning for contingencies.

District Manager's Report – C. Gannon

- DM added her appreciation and pleasure working with R. Zavras.
- Office is purchasing supplies and tech, coordinating DM's presence for deliveries.
- Hosted a virtual District Services Cabinet meeting. Resolved MTA staging issue on Palisades, blocked sidewalk on Manhattan College Pkwy, smoke on Orloff and other issues.
- New development is growing in the district and office is staying on top of demolition notices, permits, etc. Reminds everyone to ask neighbors to call in suspicious construction activity to 311 and share with the office quickly. DM works with CB officers, elected officials and agencies to investigate with a recent example of DEP issuing stop work order on a Sedgwick Avenue property.
- Organic pick-up collection is halted so residents should store the brown bins until pick-up by Sanitation is reinstated.
- Census response rate as of May 20: Bronx 48.5%, CB8 57.4%. Will try to get data drilled down by neighborhood. Please remind friends and family to respond.
- Board member committee sign-ups will be virtual. DM will confirm meeting times with committee chairs after the election and will then solicit sign-ups from members by email (or phone). All board members are advised to sign-up quickly.
- Will host an optional Zoom practice session for board members at 2pm on June 8th.
- Outreach update: Additional 100 FB followers. Increased paid posts. Posted our June calendar on local groups' FB pages. The office cannot monitor postings on other sites. All service complaints must go to 311. P. Romano coordinates website updates with DoITT.

Committee Resolutions

Chair Ginty called for committee resolutions to be presented at the June Board meeting:

- Economic Development – S. Villaverde
(a) SAPO application approved by committee for KRVC's Johnson Avenue Block Festival on September 13, 2020, subject to compliance with all safety guidelines, (b) S. Villaverde will raise a resolution at board meeting regarding inequities in our society that we cannot ignore. Comments of support received.

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- Youth – J. Gomez
Presented a resolution to reinstate the Summer Youth Employment Program, in compliance with safety guidelines, given the many benefits that SYEP provides to our youth and to the community. J. Gomez noted that summer camps may or may not open. Please send information to her on summer youth programs as the committee will collect resources for office to post/share with the community.
- Public Safety – M. Donato
Committee resolution approves four liquor license renewals: (a) Bella Note, (b) A1J1, (c) Mount St. Vincent, (d) Madisons
- Hudson River Greenway – B. Bender
Presented a resolution to continue the committee for another year with members Bender, Padernacht and Spalter. A vote to extend is required since this is a special committee. The Greenway saw some positive developments in a relatively slow year.
- Parks & Recreation – B. Bender
Presented a resolution brought to the committee by Manhattan College to co-name a baseball field in Van Cortlandt Park “Joe Coppo Field”. Noted the history of the ballfield and its revitalization by the college that also benefits the public. Several members noted that the naming is in line with all guidelines, highlighting the many contributions that Joe Coppo made to the community’s youth and to the sport, the letters of community support, and how the co-naming of the revitalized field will continue to benefit the local area. Mr. Coppo was killed in the WTC on September 11, 2001. Co-naming resolutions require approval votes at two (2) board meetings.
- Traffic & Transportation – D. Padernacht
(a) Presented an illustration of the changes proposed by DOT to the corridor on Sedgwick Avenue that crosses Mosholu Parkway, Goulden Avenue and Dickinson Avenue, and the committee resolution to approve the six (6) changes with the request that DOT contact CB8 at least 30 days prior to the implementation of the changes, reiterates that changes are for paint and temporary barriers only (no concrete) and a request to investigate the reduction of the size of the left turn only lane on the eastbound lane of Sedgwick Avenue prior to the intersection at Dickinson Avenue.
(b) Presented a concept illustration and resolution to consider a capital project to reconfigure the intersection at Sedgwick so Dickinson connects with Goulden. The goal, including that of environmental organizations, is to create more greenspace in this area. After discussion, all agreed that a letter to DOT’s capital division is more appropriate than resolution.
- Land Use – M. Wolpoff
(a) Presented resolution to deny the Delafield Estates application to reposition nineteen unbuilt house sites including two new curb cuts. After nine months, little progress has been made to address or satisfy neighbors’ concerns regarding public health and safety. There is a question as to who owns the road and request for escrow in case sewage renders neighbors’ homes uninhabitable.
(b) Presented resolution to deny the applicant’s request for a variance from BSA to permit a 7-story, 59 unit building on Terrace View Ave. in Marble Hill, M1-1 zoned. Concerns include the very steep slope, narrow one-way street, lack of access for construction and emergency vehicles, no parking in an already congested area, character change to surrounding 1-2 family homes, and future of this development given a questionable return to the applicant. B. Bender and R. Fanuzzi noted that environmental hazards have not been investigated and requested an additional clause to address. L. Spalter sent follow-up questions to applicant who on the application checked “yes” to environmental hazards on the site.

R. Ginty noted the tremendous time and effort that went into these two issues and thanks C. Moerdler for his hard work, and to the committee and others who participated.

Issues for Discussion

- R. Ginty looks forward to seeing S. Villaverde's statement and welcome it. She plans to speak to the two serious issues facing us at the board meeting. Noted that the resolution brought last month by B. Bender to thank all frontline workers received many sincere expressions of appreciation from hospitals, city agencies and others. It shows that "it does matter what we say" and that we should take a stand.
- D. Padernacht – SAPO document shows 24-week approval for green market on Fieldston Road, and not the limited period shown in the resolution. DM Gannon pushed the agency for the correct timeframe. The market is opening in the Riverdale Temple parking lot.
- M. Wolpoff – Will raise the recommendations from the nominating committee at LRE.
- S. Villaverde – Merchants in our district were looted during current tragic events. He is working with DM to gather information and provide support to our neighbors.

Chair called for an executive session per §105.h of the Open Meetings Law at which a "proposed acquisition, sale or lease of real property" would substantially affect the value. [Guest placed in Zoom waiting room]

A motion to go into executive session was made, seconded and adopted

In Favor (16): Alexander, Bender, Daub, Dinowitz, Donato, Fanuzzi, Gellman, Ginty, Gomez, Jackson, Murray, Padernacht, Spalter, Villaverde, Wolpoff, Zavras // Opposed: (0), Abstain (0)

Motion to End Executive Session – Motion passed:

In Favor (16): Alexander, Bender, Daub, Dinowitz, Donato, Fanuzzi, Gellman, Ginty, Gomez, Jackson, Murray, Padernacht, Spalter, Villaverde, Wolpoff, Zavras // Opposed: (0), Abstain (0)

Follow-up on Outstanding Issues - None

Meeting adjourned at 9:45pm

Submitted by Lisa Daub, Secretary