

Pending Committee Approval
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES
HELD ON MAY 6, 2020
VIDEO CONFERENCE

Committee Members Present (17)

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

Committee Members Absent (0)

Staff (1)

Ciara Gannon, District Manager

CB8 & Guests

Steve Froot - CB8, Kirstyn Brendlen - Riverdale Press and 3 other members of the community

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

Minutes

- Minutes of April 1, 2020 Executive Committee approved:
In Favor (14): Alexander, Bender, Daub, Donato, Fanuzzi, Gellman, Ginty, Gomez, Jackson, Murray, Padernacht, Spalter, Villaverde, Zavras // Opposed: (0), Abstain (0)

Chair's Report – R. Ginty

- We continue to hold meetings using Zoom. If anyone needs a refresher, the staff will assist.
- June board meeting will be held on June 9th and will include election of officers and chairs. Chair received complaints that the April meeting ended late. Discussed possibility of starting board meetings a little earlier, balancing changing schedules and commutes. After discussion, we will propose a 7:00pm start for board meetings during this challenging time.

Treasurer's Report – R. Zavras

- Treasurer shared this month's report showing that we are still positioned well for the fiscal year. No budget modification this month.
- Spent 187k of 296k original budget (which is now reduced by 4k for all CBs).
- Special Funding report is updated. We still have funds remaining due to cancelled events. Any current or new project expenditures need to be paid for this fiscal year. Additional OTPS will be spent on office supplies as customary in May and June. Since office was not fully staffed for the full year, some PS funds will be returned.
- We planned to prepare and vote on FY21 operating budget in May, but due to severe current fiscal reality, we have not received budget guidance yet from OMB.

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- Treasurer drafted expanded procurement guidelines with helpful forms and will be shared at which time feedback is welcomed..

District Manager's Report – C. Gannon

- The CB8 Housing Resource Guide has been translated into Spanish, printed and delivered to the office last week. DM will work with D. Jackson and housing committee on best way to distribute this important information.
- Office is starting our year-end purchasing of office supplies.
- Mayor's office, NYPD and FDNY opened 311 Fastlane to provide coronavirus health, testing, food access and other critical information and needs.
- Face masks are being distributed in Van Cortlandt and other parks.
- DM provided an outreach update to explain how far tech communications have come. Helpful suggestions are always welcome.
 - Social Media: Guidance from social media working group a couple years ago encouraged continuation and strengthening of Facebook. Facebook followers significantly increased and fluctuates (now 1261). Office posts more than 5 posts each day. Was previously in contact with local FB group administrators to share our page on theirs' and will revisit. Had and will again pay for promotional posts to reach non-followers. Investigating NextDoor.
 - Website: Last year, all city websites had to be ADA compliant so we migrated to DoITT's standard site. Migrated all links last summer including significant clean-up. Explained efforts required to coordinate posts with city personnel and interns. DoITT will train and allow staff to update site ourselves when current health situation settles. It is approaching the time we considered to evaluate NYC vs. other hosting options and this can be investigated over the summer when new leadership is seated. Chair Ginty reiterated this promise to review. DM noted that our site is one of the most updated amongst CBs and will continue to improve.
 - Email: Agendas, minutes, newsletter sent to approximately 1000 recipients but this also fluctuates. With approved purchase of Constant Contact and training, office will have capability to send larger distributions with less manual efforts and recipients can sign up for only selected committee(s) correspondence, newsletters, etc. as they prefer. S. Villaverde asks for a confirmation copy of requested email distributions sent by the office.
- Regarding the recent issue of individual member(s) sending email blasts to all or most board members: Past practice has been to route emails to the board through the office for forwarding to keep an archive in the city system and to ensure that correspondence falls within allowed parameters / laws. Research confirmed that other CBs operate the same way or are even more strict. Members raised privacy concerns about recent members' email blasts/replies and potential inundation with 40+ people corresponding.
 - Clarified that concerns are only about "blasts" to the board and not about individual or committee work correspondence.
 - D. Padernacht expressed his view that it is fine for individual board members to write directly to the full [or most] board members and he does not know of a rule that prohibits it. Members should use their discretion whether to cc or bcc. D. Gellman believes that blasts cannot be stopped but that it is inappropriate to open copy members' emails that also go to non-board members.
 - Several board members [Dinowitz, Spalter, Fanuzzi, Ginty, Zavras] clarified why individual email blasts are not appropriate:
 - Board work resides in committees and subject to open meeting law – this is to show the public how we reach decisions and that they are not made behind closed doors.
 - Board work is FOILable. These emails can be construed as official business causing misunderstandings.
 - Can open up personal email accounts to FOIL requests.

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- Members have and may unintentionally send out inappropriate or illegal language content. Requests for distribution to all board members has not been denied. Inappropriate emails are the concern. The office can filter these, which is different than “censoring”.
- Members with no or limited email access are excluded from or overwhelmed with open copy email conversations.

Committee Resolutions

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

- Traffic & Transportation – D. Padernacht
(a) Veterans Radio Dispatch – letter of no objection approved by committee for livery license renewal. (b) Riverdale Y Farmers’ Market move from RKA due to construction, to west side of Fieldston Rd, 236-8th streets. Y and CB8 notified merchants and residents (through managing agents and tenant/coop groups) to gauge concerns. Fieldston location is not feasible with social distancing. Committee approved 4 Sundays (TBD) out of usual 23 Sundays to assess. Alternate locations are being investigated by the Y. Pointed out that the Riverdale Y contributes so much to this community and their market supports family farms. SAPO makes ultimate decision. Committee members also discussed communications.

Issues for Discussion

- C. Moerdler – (a) Investigating options to preserve Webb Avenue and vicinity via zoning and/or landmarking, (b) In June should have a vote regarding Delafield, (c) planned multi-story building on hill above U-Haul may close a street during construction. (d) 2395 Palisades zoning challenge
- D. Gellman – Shared initial FY22 budget requests to be discussed at September consultations and drafting district needs statement. Will clarify that listings are only prioritized within committee rankings, not by overall board priorities which takes place in September for October’s public hearing.
 - R. Fanuzzi stressed the importance for public comment now on the FY21 executive budget which will experience historic cuts. Later noted cuts (not suspension) to three sanitation programs: e-waste pickups, curbside organic recycling and NYC compost
- S. Villaverde – It was reported that the Bronx received less than 1% of SBS funding. This is a disgrace. Will invite an SBS representative to the next Economic Development meeting to help explain why Bronx businesses received so little and what can be done.
- B. Bender – Kudos to Parks dept and NYPD for being out in the parks giving out masks and ensuring that parks are being used responsibly.
- R. Fanuzzi – Watermain replacement project at Ft. Independence is on hiatus. Moved a fire hydrant that removed a parking space. Asking DDC to add quality of life changes to notifications list and to notify district manager of findings that may change construction plans.

Follow-up on Outstanding Issues - None

Meeting adjourned at 9:15pm

Submitted by Lisa Daub, Secretary