

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Held on Tuesday, October 13, 2020 via Zoom Conference

PRESENT (37):

S. Alexander	M. Esema	M. Joyce	L. Spalter
R. Bender	R. Fanuzzi	R. Kaplan	C. Tepelus
J. Campbell- Priveterre	N. Fazio	D. Leverett	J. Townes
C. Dartis-Galvin	S. Froot	T. Morris	D. Travis
L. Daub	D. Gellman	O. Murray	S. Villaverde
M. Della	R. Ginty	D. Padernacht	M. Wolpoff
E. Dinowitz	J. Gomez	K. Pesce	R. Zavras
M. Donato	M. Goodman	R. Pochter-Lowe	
P. Ellis	E. Green	G. Santiago	
D. Escano	D. B. Jackson	R. Singh	

ABSENT (7): C. Moerdler L. Lopez T. Pardo M. Gluck E. Garcia
R. Jacklosky J. Reyes

STAFF: P. Romano, Community Associate
T. Ochoteco, Community Coordinator
C. Gannon, District Manager

GUEST: Capt. Emilio Melendez (NYPD 50th Precinct) • Assembly Member Jeffrey Dinowitz, Sam (AM Dinowitz Office) • Patrick Hill (NYC CM Cohen Office), Ish Gonzalez (BX BP Office), Miguel Rondon (Mayor's Office), Mariel De La Cruz (NYC Comptroller's Office), Carlos (Senator Rivera's Office), Stephanie Coggins

PUBLIC HEARING ON BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8'S BUDGET PRIORITIES FOR FY 22:

Budget Chair, David Gellman, opened this year's public hearing at 6:30pm. Chair Spalter noted that three expense items from the Youth Committee were inadvertently left off the expense list that went out and the situation will be rectified in the board discussion following the public hearing. D. Gellman called for comments from the public. Public comments included: several residents advocated for additional Parks and Sanitation funding. Following board member discussion, D. Gellman called for a vote to adopt the 2022 capital budget and the 2022 expense budget as amended:

VOTE:

Opposed: 0

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Abstained:0

In favor: S. Alexander, B. Bender, J. Campbell-Priveterre, C. Dartis-Galvin, L. Daub, M. Della, E. Dinowitz, M. Donato, P. Ellis, D. Escano, M. Esema, R. Fanuzzi, N. Fazio, S. Froot, D. Gellman, R. Ginty, J. Gomez, M. Goodman, E. Green, D. Jackson, M. Joyce, R. Kaplan, D. Leverett, T. Morris, O. Murray, D. Padernacht, K. Pesce, R. Pochter-Lowe, G. Santiago, R. Singh, L. Spalter, C. Tepelus, D. Travis, M. Wolpoff, R. Zavras

Chair Spalter convened the meeting at **7:30 P.M** and welcomed all.

1. GALLERY SESSION:

- Stephanie Coggins spoke about the Villa Rosa co-namings that she advocated for and expressed her disappointment that the process won't go any further.

2. REPORT FROM THE BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S OFFICE – ISH GONZALEZ

- Ish Gonzalez spoke about the 2020 Census and reminded everyone about how important it is.
- He welcomed the new Board Members and informed them about an upcoming virtual orientation.
- Chair Spalter confirmed receipt of the notice from the Borough President's office which includes the Governor's Executive order suspending the in-person meeting requirement and allowing remote meetings until November 4th.

2. REPORT FROM THE 50TH POLICE PRECINCT – CAPTAIN EMILIO MELENDEZ

- Captain Melendez reports an increase in crime citywide. For our community the Captain reports an increase of 42% for the week, 48% increase in 28 days and 2.4% increase for the year.
- The spike in crimes for the 50th precinct is centered around Grand Larcenies, Burglaries and Grand Larceny Auto (GLA). 84% increase in stolen autos..
- The Captain attributes the increase in burglaries to packages being stolen from front doors at homes. Mailbox fishing increased this year.
- Provided an update on bail reform and court case backlog.
- Fewer violent crimes. No reported Hate crimes.
- Off-Road/ATVs are a city-wide issue however officers do not engage in pursuit of these vehicles for safety reasons.
- Argus cameras are being installed and waiting to be networked. Additional requests in progress.

3. REPORT FROM NYS ASSEMBLY MEMBER JEFFREY DINOWITZ

- Tomorrow is the 5th and final free flu shot event for the Assemblyman's office in partnership with CM Cohen, Congressman Engel

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- Acknowledged the ribbon cuttings last week for the Toddler playground, Putnam Trail, Parks Without Borders, and the Skatepark at Van Cortlandt Park.
- Drag racing is an ongoing problem and the Assemblyman has spoken to the 50th precinct about it.
- Rally tomorrow at Chase Bank to protest the Knolls Crescent branch closing.

4. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – LAURA SPALTER

Chair Spalter welcomed our six (6) new board members: Joyce Campbell-Priveterre, Courtney Dartis-Galvin, Moses Esema, Robert Kaplan, Theodore Morris, Ramdat Singh. The new members introduced themselves.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT – ROSALIND ZAVRAS

- \$55K PS has been allocated, OTPS \$7K allocated,
- Due to shipping delays, some equipment/items were delayed and did not make it in the FY20 budget
- R. Zavras announced that due to her impending move, this will be her last Treasurer's report. She thanked everyone for their advice, guidance and work. Roz will be missed.

9. DISTRICT MANAGER'S REPORT – CIARA GANNON

- DM Gannon welcomed the new Board members and let them know that the board office staff is here to support them.
- Regarding the accident that occurred this morning at 256th street, MTA and DOT have reached out to their franchise company who will make the necessary repairs to the bus shelter.
- Reminder about the importance of calling 311 with complaints and forward the confirmation number with supporting photos or videos to the CB8 Board Office so that we may forward to the appropriate agencies directly and follow up to resolve. The importance of contacting 311 was reiterated by several speakers throughout the meeting.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. PARKS & RECREATION – CHAIR ROSEMARY GINTY

R. Ginty noted that the Parks Committee was fortunate to host the Bronx Borough Commissioner, Iris Rodriguez Rosa, to discuss what FY21 means to Parks and to our community. The expense budget was cut by \$84M which affected Parks' seasonal workers. Parks staff also spoke about the capital budget. Committee will focus on how to accomplish what's needed with a small budget. Next meeting Wednesday October 28th at 7:00pm

B. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE – CHAIR ED GREEN

NEW APPLICATION: Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider.

WHEREAS, Representatives for Aramark Educational Services LLC (4513 Manhattan College Parkway) appeared before the Public Safety Committee on September 15th, 2020 for a new liquor license.

WHEREAS, Representatives for Aramark Educational Services LLC have agreed to a 2AM closing time for the 1st year (*Said agreement is contingent on signed document being received and recorded at the Bronx Community Board office).

BE IT RESOLVED, that Bronx Community Board 8 approves this application.

VOTE:

Opposed: 0, Abstained: 0

Abstained for Cause: **2-** N. Fazio & D.B. Jackson

In favor: **35** Opposed –**2** Abstentions: 0 In favor: S. Alexander, B. Bender, J. Campbell, C. Dartis-Galvin, L. Daub, M. Della, E. Dinowitz, M. Donato, P. Ellis, D. Escano, M. Esema, R. Fanuzzi, S. Froot, D. Gellman, R. Ginty, J. Gomez, M. Goodman, E. Green, M. Joyce, R. Kaplan, D. Leverett, T. Morris, O. Murray, D. Padernacht, K. Pesce, R. Pochter-Lowe, G. Santiago, R. Singh, L. Spalter, C. Tepelus, D. Travis, J. Townes, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, R. Zavras

NEW APPLICATION: Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider.

WHEREAS, Miguel Nunez, President of Aroma Enterprises Inc. (5523 Broadway), appeared before the Public Safety Committee on September 15th, 2020 for a new liquor license.

WHEREAS, Miguel Nunez, President of Aroma Enterprises Inc. has agreed to a 2AM closing time for the 1st year. (*Said agreement is contingent on signed document being received and recorded at the Bronx Community Board office).

BE IT RESOLVED, that Bronx Community Board 8 approves this application.

VOTE:

Opposed: 0, Abstained: 0

Abstained for Cause: **1-** D.B. Jackson

In favor – **36** Opposed –**2** Abstentions: 0 In favor: S. Alexander, B. Bender, J. Campbell, C. Dartis-Galvin, L. Daub, M. Della, E. Dinowitz, M. Donato, P. Ellis, D. Escano, M. Esema, R. Fanuzzi, N. Fazio, S. Froot, D. Gellman, R. Ginty, J. Gomez, M. Goodman, E. Green, M. Joyce, R. Kaplan, D. Leverett, T. Morris, O. Murray, D. Padernacht, K. Pesce, R. Pochter-Lowe, G. Santiago, R. Singh, L. Spalter, C. Tepelus, D. Travis, J. Townes, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, R. Zavras

E. Green thanked former Public Safety committee chair M. Donato for all her work and he thanked the committee for welcoming him. Other complaints include crossover issues w/Parks and T&T noise, street racing, quality of life concerns, tenant harassment, illegal barbecuing and litter. Chair Green thanked the NYPD for Argus camera update and noted available funding - locations pending.

C. TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION – CHAIR DAN PADERNACHT

Important issues: T&T along with Public Safety is working on Independence Avenue street racing and reckless driving. The committee will be forming a working group to discuss possible street design changes. DOT possibly changing direction of W. 238th Street between Sedgwick Avenue and Cannon Place to a one-way street traveling west bound only. The committee will continue to monitor the retaining wall at 7 Dash Place and development at 3893 Waldo Avenue. Next T&T meeting on Thursday, October 15th.

D. YOUTH – CHAIR JULIA GOMEZ

Referred members to committee's most recent minutes. The next meeting will be on October 19th.

E. AGING – CHAIR ERIC DINOWITZ

Shared a reminder about safe ways to vote. The Aging Committee is working with Economic Development Committee on the issue of Chase Bank Knolls Crescent Branch closing. As the only bank in the area, the closing will cause hardship to the neighborhood's older adults and small businesses. A letter was sent from Eric Dinowitz, Nick Fazio and Laura Spalter and a petition has been started in response to the proposed closing.

F. BUDGET – CHAIR DAVID GELLMAN

Will be discussing Fiscal Year 2023 in the winter and advised chairs to bring their budget priority ideas to the committee meetings.

G. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – CHAIR NICK FAZIO

N. Fazio spoke about the Chase Bank on Knolls Crescent closing. He talked with most business owners in the area and they are distraught by the pending closure. He hopes that the letter and petition will result in a positive outcome. The Economic Development Committee has had several guest speakers that discussed the multitude of resources available for CB8 businesses. Next meeting will be held on October 22. Kingsbridge BID reported a 70% vacancy rate which is below the previous projections.

H. EDUCATION, LIBRARIES & CULTURAL AFFAIRS – CHAIR SYLVIA ALEXANDER

S. Alexander referred to her minutes and welcomed all the new members. She is happy to see that Moses Esema was appointed to the board as he attended ELCA meetings as a community resident. Next meeting October 27th.

I. ENVIRONMENT AND SANITATION – CHAIR ROBERT FANUZZI

Thanks to Councilman Cohen, garbage pick-up has resumed on Sundays. Announced that water main replacement in Fort Independence is now complete and thanked D. Padernacht for his partnering on the matter. NYC Budget for FY21 and possibly FY22 is facing historic cuts in recycling. Please see minutes for notes on the committee's involvement in restoring community composting. NYBG no longer doing instruction on composting. Con Ed's response to Hurricane Isaias will be discussed at the next E&S meeting on October 21.

J. HOUSING - CHAIR DARIS B. JACKSON

A census field representative attended September meeting as well as a critical care nursing supervisor from NYU who addressed COVID safety measures that can be applied in common areas at work and home. The next meeting is October 26.

K. HEALTH, HOSPITALS & SOCIAL SERVICES - CHAIR OMAR MURRAY

September meeting guest speakers Miguel Rondon from the Mayor's office spoke about Test and Trace, Assistant Principal at PS86 spoke about the re-opening phase for schools. COVID upticks in Brooklyn, Queens, Orange and Rockland Counties. Next meeting October 14.

L. LAND USE - MARTIN WOLPOFF REPORTED FOR CHARLES MOERDLER

M. Wolpoff noted that Stagg Group spoke about two (2) development projects underway at 6375 Broadway and 5278 Post Road.

M. LAW, RULES & ETHICS – CHAIR MARTIN WOLPOFF

No report for LRE. M. Wolpoff noted to all new and old members that there are four (4) ways to vote on any resolutions that come up before the Board: For, Against, Abstention and Abstention for Cause. Votes from members who are approved as abstentions "for cause" (i.e., a conflict of interest) reduce the majority required for the resolution to be approved. Next meeting November 9.

N. SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON RACIAL EQUITY - CHAIR ROSALIND ZAVRAS

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Thanked everyone for their support. No October meeting date on the calendar for SCRE yet due to the committee's pending transition. The Committee is reviewing everyone's comments on the initial SCRE report. The Committee wants to respond to the comments received and incorporate comments into the revised report. The initial SCRE report may be requested from the Board office. Although the deadline for comments has passed, please continue to forward feedback.

Chair Spalter, each committee chairperson and other board members welcomed the six new members and thanked R. Zavras for her contributions to the board, wishing her well in her new endeavors.

S. Villaverde thanked everyone who reached out with kind words and condolences after the passing of a family member.

13. DISCUSSION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 7, 2020

No Discussion

14. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2020 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

VOTE:

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

In favor: S. Alexander, B. Bender, J. Campbell-Priveterre, C. Dartis-Galvin, L. Daub, M. Della, E. Dinowitz, M. Donato, P. Ellis, D. Escano, M. Esema, R. Fanuzzi, N. Fazio, S. Froot, D. Gellman, R. Ginty, J. Gomez, M. Goodman, E. Green, D. Jackson, M. Joyce, R. Kaplan, D. Leverett, T. Morris, O. Murray, D. Padernacht, K. Pesce, R. Pochter-Lowe, G. Santiago, R. Singh, L. Spalter, C. Tepelus, D. Travis, M. Wolpoff, R. Zavras

Motion to Adjourn at 9:44PM, seconded and passed by unanimous consent.

Prepared By: Tania Ochoteco, Community Coordinator
Reviewed By: Lisa Daub, Secretary