

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

Minutes of the Meeting of the **Libraries & Cultural Affairs Committee**
Held at the NYPL Van Cortlandt Park branch library on May 10, 2012

Present

Robert G. Abbott
Jane Fisher
Jack Marth
Ana Rubio
Bill Stone
Martin Wolpoff

Affiliation

CB#8, Committee Chair
NYPL, Network Manager
from the community
NYPL, Library Manager
CB#8
CB#8

The meeting began at 6:00 pm

VAN CORTLANDT PARK BRANCH

The committee was afforded a brief tour of the branch library by the library manager, Ms. Ana Rubio. This is a small branch with a lot of activity. Ms. Rubio highlighted:

- New signage throughout the branch (including non-English signs over collections in Russian, Spanish, and Chinese).
- An extensive children's program and outreach to the local schools
- A lively seniors program, especially with the Weinberg Senior Center right next door to the branch.
- And a variety of upcoming events for teens (food and music), for children (a play by a traveling theatre company), and an art exhibit in celebration of Bronx Week.

During a discussion of the community it was observed that the Fort Independence Park Neighborhood Association (FIPNA) might welcome a home for various historic artifacts if the branch had additional space available.

See the Attached Overview of the Branch, for more detailed information.

BUDGET 2013

The Mayor released the 2013 Executive Budget last week (the fiscal year 2013 budget begins on July 1, 2012). NYPL is facing a devastating \$43 Million cut. The City Council is likely to restore some of that funding. NYPL has estimated that the impact of the full cut would be: possibly 5 fewer branches in the Bronx, 1.9 million fewer visits, 2.8 million fewer items circulated, 11,700 fewer programs for kids and teens, and 142,000 fewer visits by kids and

teens to library programs. We are all encouraged to contact our elected officials by accessing www.nypl.org/speakout.

BUDGET PRIORITIES 2014

Unless something develops in the short-term that would give NYPL the opportunity to acquire a new site for the Van Cortlandt Park branch, then the **Capital priorities** for 2014 remain the same as for 2013. Specifically,

1. Full Interior Renovation and New Roof for the Spuyten Duyvil branch. This includes life safety systems, HVAC replacement, and interior renovation including ADA compliance.
2. Partial Renovation of the Riverdale Branch including upgrading the life safety systems, HVAC replacement, and rehabilitation of the entrance, sidewalk, retaining walls, etc.
3. Full renovation of the Van Cortlandt Park branch including rehabilitation of the façade, a new roof, renovation of the interior spaces, including the staff room, new windows, new furniture and equipment.

Note that if there was an opportunity to acquire a new site for the Van Cortlandt Park branch, that would move to the first priority.

The **Expense budget priority** is to retain funding to maintain full service, six-days a week at all of our branches.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm

Robert G. Abbott, Chair
Libraries & Cultural Affairs Committee

Van Cortlandt Library

3874 Sedgwick Avenue (south of Mosholu Parkway)
 Bronx, NY 10463
 (718) 543-5150
<http://www.nypl.org/locations/van-cortlandt>

Manager: Ana Rubio

The Van Cortlandt Branch of The New York Public Library is a cozy one-room, one-floor branch situated nearby the Jerome Park Reservoir and historic Van Cortlandt Park. Both the Park and the Branch owe their names to an early 18th-century New York Mayor, Jacobus Van Cortlandt, whose family owned large tracts of land in the area. The Branch opened in 1969, formerly operating out of a tiny apartment in the area, and is accessible to persons who use wheelchairs.

The Van Cortlandt library offers a varied collection of books, genre paperbacks, CDs, DVDs and audiobooks for all ages. There is also a small collection of books in Spanish and Russian. The Library also offers a variety of programs, the majority of which attract children and families. Public access desktop and laptop computers are available for in-library use. In addition, wi-fi service is available for patrons who wish to use their own wireless devices in the library.

Library Use*



* This circulation chart does not include recent increases in the borrowing of library-owned e-books, which accounts for the downward trend in circulation of print materials in some branches. At the Van Cortlandt branch, circulation of materials for children has increased by nearly 11% over the last twelve months. Thanks to the continuous and creative work of the branch staff, the number of programs offered over the last year increased by 41% and the overall program attendance increased by 74%.

Hours

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
10-6	10-6	11-7	10-6	10-5	10-5

Neighborhood Schools

Schools: District 10

P.S. 95 Sheila Mencher School

P.S. 344 Ampark Neighborhood School

Neighborhood Institutions / Organizations

The Van Cortlandt neighborhood is home to Van Cortlandt Park, 1,110-acres of forest, trails and playing fields that is the city's fourth-largest park and includes the Van Cortlandt Golf Course.

The Amalgamated Housing Cooperative, founded in 1927, is the oldest limited equity housing cooperative in the United States

The historic Shalom Aleichem Houses, a 15-building Neo-Tudor fortress started by socialist Yiddish members of the Socialist and Communist Parties, began construction in 1927 as co-operative housing.

The Jerome Park Reservoir features a 2-1/2-mile scenic pedestrian pathway for sports and outdoors fans.