

## BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

Minutes of the Meeting of the **Libraries & Cultural Affairs Committee**  
Held at the NYPL Riverdale branch library on September 13, 2012

### Present

Robert G. Abbott  
Nils Graham  
Amy Moore  
Lamont Parker  
Martin Wolpoff  
I. W. Stone  
Jane Fisher  
Rebecca Brown-Barbier  
Andrew Sandler  
Sameea A. Kamal

### Affiliation

CB#8, Committee Chair  
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CB#8  
NYPL, Network Manager  
NYPL, Library Manager  
Councilman Koppell's staff  
Student, Columbia Journalism School

The meeting began at 6:00 pm

Branch Activities: Rebecca Brown-Barbier provided an overview of the successful summer programs at Riverdale. She described the general well-being of the branch and she was complimented on the condition of the facilities and the attractive community room.

NYC Dept. of Education: Jane Fisher described the priority that NYPL is giving to the collaboration with the NYC Department of Education. Since the pilot program last year to integrate the local school's library catalog with NYPL's catalog (enriching the student's search experience) the Department of Education has now included the other two city library systems in the project. Schools in CB8 are being invited to participate. One feature of the collaboration will enable a teacher to request NYPL to provide a full set of student books for an extended period of time. Students who request a book via the integrated catalog can pick up the book at the local library branch. To this point, the project has been privately funded. The NYPL values the local school librarian as a partner in the project. We were informed that this project is very actively discussed by local school staff and parent association leadership. Jane Fisher will provide updates as events warrant.

### Other Discussion:

1. A letter to the editor of a local newspaper complained about teenagers making excessive noise at a branch library. The library manager is

- responsible to insure the comfort of all patrons using the facility. The situation will be monitored but a public response is unlikely.
2. There is continuing concern that the size of the Van Cortlandt Park branch may be inadequate for the needs of the community and limits the flexibility of the staff for a variety of programs. Patron requests to have new tables with electrical outlets for computers (have to be installed in the floor), for example, will impact the area that is used for a variety of programs.
  3. Priorities of other CB8 committees may provide opportunities for joint meetings. Examples include Health & Hospitals committee, the Youth committee, and the Education committee.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm

Robert G. Abbott, Chair  
Libraries & Cultural Affairs Committee