

**Meeting of the Libraries and Cultural Affairs Committee
Held on Thursday, April 12, 2018
at the Riverdale Library
55 Mosholu Avenue
Pending Committee Approval**

In Attendance:

Marvin Goodman, CB8 - Chair, Libraries and Cultural Affairs Committee
Sylvia Alexander, CB - Libraries Committee Member
Martin Wolpoff, CB8- Libraries Committee Member
Peter Pamphile, Library Manager, Van Cortlandt Library
Martha Gonzalez Buitrago, Library Manager, Kingsbridge Library
Rebecca Brown Barbier, Library manager, Riverdale Library
Robert Jacklosky, Community Resident

The meeting began at 5:30 PM. The minutes of the March meeting were unanimously approved.

A SAPO application, Summer Reading: Turn It Up” to be held on June 7,2018 on Eames Place, between Clafin Avenue and University Avenue, was presented to the committee by Rebecca Brown Barbier on behalf of Nicola McDonald, Library Manager of the Jerome Park Library, who was unable to be present at our meeting. The SAPO application will result in the street closure of Eames Place, between Clafin Avenue and University Avenue from 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM. This event is held on a non-school day. It encourages library sign-ups. There is “Story Time” for young children and give-aways for attendees. This is an annual event. The Libraries and Cultural Affairs Committee voted unanimously in favor of the SAPO application.

Peter Pamphile reported that excavation for the new branch of the Van Cortlandt Library has begun. The new branch, at 3882 Cannon Place, is three blocks from the current library and will more than double the library’s space, to better accommodate community needs. There will be an outdoor space for programs as well. The work is scheduled for completion in 2020. Budget Priorities for 2020.

Expense Budget:

The NYPL has asked that additional operational funding be our top priority to expand library services to seven days per week. There are no library branches in CB8 that operate on a seven day per week schedule. We are asking for funding for at least one branch for seven day services per week. We believe the Kingsbridge Branch Library should be the first for this extra operational expense.

Capital Budget:

Our capital budget requests for 2020 are the same as for 2019. We need heating and cooling updates in each library branch. We need ADA compliance and upgrades on fire alarms, security systems and technology, including wi-fi. These apply to all our library branches. A top priority is funding the expansion of the Spuyten Duyvil Library Branch. The increase in schools and in school populations in the immediate area of this library has exacerbated the need to expand. Land for this expansion, owned by the city, adjoins the library.

These projects were unanimously approved by the Libraries and Cultural Affairs Committee.

The Riverdale Branch, where we met today, is the oldest, and the first, library branch in CB8. It is the only building with a pointed roof in the system. It is the only branch with two library lions in stone at the main entrance. (The main branch of the NYPL, on W 42nd street, has two library lions at the main entrance.)

Rebecca Brown Barbier, Riverdale Library Branch manager, took us on a tour of the library and explained how it operates. The library is divided into two distinct parts: one half for pre-school children and young school agers and one half for teenagers and adults. Each half has its own computers and tables and book shelves. The pre-school area contains an alcove with mini-sized furniture. In the adult section there are books in a variety of foreign languages with Russian as the chief foreign language. There is an extensive interaction between this branch's librarians and the local area schools, with librarians making visits periodically to these schools for comprehensive interaction with students and teachers. There is a program at the library for teachers to be able to borrow group quantity titles of a book for extended periods of classroom use, up to three months for some. There is also a special program for students to borrow books for extended periods without incurring library fines.

The library offers a variety of programs, besides just books. There is a toddler story time, an early childhood Monday Magic program, a family literacy program, a teen study tour, an English conversation group, a teen writers group, a knitting club, and several programs for children as young as 0 to 3 years of age.

The tour ended and the meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for May 10th, location and time to be determined.

Respectfully submitted,
Marvin Goodman, Committee Chair