

**COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8**

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING  
HELD ON FEBRUARY 2, 2012  
AT MANHATTAN COLLEGE, SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING  
3825 CORLEAR AVENUE**

- PRESENT:** S. Alexander, S. Balicer, B. Bender, A. Cohen, T. Durham, R. Fanuzzi, A. Garbett Feldmeier, D. Kirksey-Floyd, S. Froot, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, N. Graham, M. Heller, M. Khury, T. Lim, S. Marquez, D. McShane, A. Moore, P. Mullen, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, J. Pilsner, R. Press, P. Reyes, X. Sanchez, G. Santiago, A. A. Spett, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff
- ABSENT:** R. Abbott, S. Catechis, B. Contant, E. Corcino, A. P. Creaney, B. Fettman, P. Friedman, M. Ginzburg, C. Hanley, G. O. Koppell, R. Prochter Lowe, C. G. Moerdler, A. Piscitelli, J. M. Reyes, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, H. Young
- STAFF:** N. Stent – District Manager, CB8  
D. Bay – Community Associate, CB 8  
P. Manning – Community Associate, CB8
- GUESTS:** J. Dinowitz, Assemblyman  
J. Doyle – rep. State Senator Jeffrey Klein  
Y. Kahn-Jochnowitz – rep. Congressman Eliot Engel  
A. Sandler – rep. Councilman G. Oliver Koppell  
J. Sonett – rep. State Senator Adriano Espaillat  
D. Mabourakh – NYC Department of Parks & Recreation  
A. Macari – NYC Department of Parks & Recreation  
M. Perron – Van Cortlandt Conservancy, NYC Department of Parks & Recreation  
K. Argenti – BCEQ  
S. Avercena  
H. Barrett – Memorial Grove  
M. Borak  
S. Borak  
B. Campbell  
M. Capolorlo  
A. Cassino – Boy Scouts of America  
J. Chung  
M. Diaz – Riverdale Press  
P. Ellis  
E. Ellison, A. Ellison  
K. Elliott  
I. C. L. Engel  
G. Feliciano  
J. Firestone  
C. Gil  
F. Goris  
J. Gordon  
S. Hull, S. Hull  
E. Jaen  
A. Kelton  
T. Lacrown – CB 12  
M. Lam – Riverdale Review  
L. Manning  
D. Martin, E. Martin, E. Martin, J. Martin, M. Martin

B. Maybury, M. Maybury  
 H. McHugh, M. McHugh  
 P. McPherson  
 C. McShane, E. McShane  
 M. McShane – Manhattan College  
 M. Merino – Santa Fe Grill  
 N. Ringstad  
 F. Rubin, R. Rubin, M. Rubin  
 S. Scheinbach  
 J. Schmieder, R. Schmieder, S. Schmieder  
 T. Shelton – KRVC Development Corp.  
 P. Smith  
 J. Sokolow - BCQEQ  
 N. Spencer, J. Spencer  
 K. Stout  
 E. Soto – Con Edison  
 C. Stanton, E. Stanton  
 C. Taylor – Friends of Van Cortlandt Park  
 J. Tom  
 D. Westphal  
 H. Wiltz – NY1  
 A. Wisnieski – Riverdale Press  
 C. Worchel

Chairman Fanuzzi called the meeting to order at 7:38 PM.

1. Chairman stated that pursuant to the Board's Bylaws, Article IV, Section 3, this Special meeting was called to hear community testimony and discussion on the NYC Department of Parks & Recreation's "Intent to Award as a concession the development, operation, and maintenance of a seasonal ice rink at Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx to Van Cortlandt Park Ice Rink, LLC, which hearing would be held on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012 jointly with the two entities.

Chairman listed the pertinent materials and information which had been distributed to the Board members: 1) The Draft License Agreement between Van Cortlandt Park Ice Rink, LLC, 2) summary of Survey conducted by D. McShane, 3) summary of Emails received, 4) revised page 57 of Draft License Agreement; and 5) additionally pictures of Bryant Park Ice Skating Rink, courtesy of B. Bender.

2. Chairman proceeded to call upon the 20 speakers who had signed up for the Gallery Session. The speakers represented community residents, community based organizations, merchants associations, business owners, cub scouts, school children and parents. They were:

Elaine Ellison, Cub Scouts Pack 24; Keith Borak, community resident; Tracy Shelton, Kingsbridge Riverdale Van Cortlandt Development Corp.; Lucas Novellino, PS 24; Jennifer Firestone, PS 24; Cliff Stanton, Kingsbridge Riverdale Van Cortlandt Development Corp.; Frankie Goris, Abiza Lounge; Gary Wartels, President of North Riverdale Merchants Association; Linda Manning, Jazz Night at Beal Bocht; Betty Campbell, Lloyd Carrot Cake and Member of North Riverdale Merchants Association; Saul Scheinbach, Alana Kelton, former owner of Kelton's Skating Rink; Jennifer Ratner, Jack Spencer; Eamon McShane; Max and Sydney Borak; Kevin Elliott; Skyler Hall; and Andrew Cassino.

The majority of speakers expressed their enthusiastic support for the ice skating rink due to the convenience of the location; benefit to the community, economic boost the rink would bring to the neighborhood, and the recycle use of the disused tennis courts.

Keith Borak discussed traffic concerns, lack of parking and the possibility of utilizing Van Cortlandt Golf parking lot for some parking relief.

Tracey Shelton, Executive Director of KRVC Development Corp., presented and displayed 400 post cards of support for the Ice skating rink collected by KRVDC.

Not hearing from any other speakers, Chairman closed the hearing.

3. Chairman invited Assemblyman Dinowitz to address the Board.

Assemblyman Dinowitz expressed his pleasure with the ice skating rink hearing with the public input; announced Bronx Parks 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Speak up forum for February 25<sup>th</sup> at Lehman College from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

4. Chairman turned the meeting over to B. Bender, Chair of the Parks and Recreation committee for an overview, presentation and discussion of the Ice Skating Rink proposal.

B. Bender informed the Board members that the proposal had been an agenda item at four different public meetings of the committee last spring. In late January a draft agreement with vital information relating to the operation became available. The rink's size measures 80 feet by 170 feet, which is not NHL regulation size. Restrooms will be housed in a trailer, and food service will be available on premises. Chillers will be temporary for at least the first 2 years; they are 8 feet wide, 9 feet high and 30 feet long and are fenced into the tennis courts site. He informed that the Golf Course parking lot will be available for ice rink skaters. Mr. Bender added that there was insufficient opportunity for public input with regard to the ice skating rink in Van Cortlandt Park, however Franchise and Concessions Review Committee (FCRC) guidelines were followed. B. Bender noted that the rink is being installed at no cost to the City and funding is private with sponsorship donations from the 34<sup>th</sup> Street BID. He shared his skepticism with an article in Crain's New York about a proposal for 8 ice skating rinks for the Kingsbridge Armory.

Chairman opened the floor for discussion.

Anthony Macari and Davita Mabourakh, Department of Parks and Recreation (Parks), were called upon to explain the layout of the rink. They also responded to specific inquiries from the Board members. Issues covered were:

- Chillers - will be installed inside the fencing at the east end of the courts. Chillers will become permanent property of the City.
- Electricity box - will be placed at the northeast corner of the site.
- Usage of handball courts - will remain with only partial use for small snack bar.
- Pedestrian access - will occur from current entrance way to stadium with a tent for skaters to rent and put on their skates
- Traffic plan is within site and in Golf parking lot
- Benches - will be situated between the stadium and rink for viewing the skaters
- Signage - The name of the rink will be displayed only on Parks property.
- Car drop off and pick up on Broadway
- Hours of operation - Sunday through Thursday: Noon to 8:00 PM, Friday and Saturday until 10:00 PM. Midnight skating events will be determined case by case subject to Parks approval.
- Potential economic impact on neighboring businesses will be improved as ice rink customers will patronize businesses in area
- The site will be restored to its current condition in summer months.

5. Motion to amend the agenda to add the ice rink resolution was approved by a vote of 30 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions.

In Favor –

S. Alexander, S. Balicer, B. Bender, A. Cohen, T. Durham, R. Fanuzzi, A. Garbett Feldmeier, D. Kirksey-Floyd, S. Froot, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, N. Graham, M. Heller, M. Khury, T. Lim, S. Marquez, D. McShane, A. Moore, P. Mullen, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, J. Pilsner, R. Press, P. Reyes, X. Sanchez, G. Santiago, A. A. Spett, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff

B. Bender presented the following resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation (DPR) has issued a proposed license agreement for a seasonal ice skating rink to be located mainly on currently unused tennis courts in Van Cortlandt Park; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the mission of DPR to provide recreational facilities in parks; and

**WHEREAS**, the New York City Franchise and Concessions Review Committee (FCRC) is meeting on Monday, February 6, 2012 to consider this proposed license among other business; and

**WHEREAS**, Bronx Community Board No. 8 (the Board) has held a public meeting to gather opinion from the community regarding the proposed ice skating rink;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board recommends to the FCRC that it approve the proposed ice skating rink in Van Cortlandt Park.

R. Press made a motion to amend the resolution to include a sentence relating to the discontent of the Board with the Department of Parks' failure to provide adequate turnaround time between the provision of the license agreement to the Board and the FCRC public hearing. The motion was defeated by 13 in favor, 16 opposed and 1 abstention.

In Favor –

S. Alexander, S. Balicer, D. Kirksey Floyd, M. Heller, S. Marquez, P. Mullen, D. Padernacht, R. Press, X. Sanchez, G. Santiago, A. A. Spett, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff

Opposed –

R. Bender, A. Cohen, T. Durham, R. Fanuzzi, A. G. Feldmeier, S. Froot, M. Goodman, N. Graham, M. Khury, T. Lim, D. McShane, A. Moore, L. Parker, K. Pesce, J. Pilsner, P. Reyes

Abstentions –

R. Ginty

M. Goodman asked to amend the resolution by changing the word "disused" to unused. B. Bender accepted the change. The original resolution, as amended by Mr. Goodman, was presented.

Vote: 20 In Favor, 4 Opposed, and 6 Abstentions

In Favor –

S. Balicer, R. Bender, A. Cohen, T. Durham, R. Fanuzzi, D. Kirksey-Floyd, S. Froot, M. Goodman, N. Graham, M. Khury, T. Lim, D. McShane, A. Moore, P. Mullen, L. Parker, K. Pesce, J. Pilsner, P. Reyes, X. Sanchez, G. Santiago

Opposed –

M. Heller, S. Marquez, R. Press, A. A. Spett

Abstentions –

S. Alexander, A. G. Feldmeier, R. Ginty, D. Padernacht, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff

Meeting adjourned 9:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Manning  
Community Associate