

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8**

**MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE  
MEETING HELD JANUARY 15, 2013**

**PRESENT**

Daniel Padernacht  
Sylvia Alexander  
Bob Bender  
Maria Khury  
Patricia Mullen  
Robert Press  
Herb Young  
John DeSio  
Ali Mallick  
Alimur Rahman  
Yurey Bykhovskoy  
Kristin Hart  
Vladimir Shendelman  
Shoshana Shendelman  
Michael Kelly  
Dermot Burke  
Margaret Groarke  
Dart Westphal  
Eugene Teperman  
Mario Curanaj  
Geallin Nunez  
Fr. Robert Larkin  
P.C. Garcia  
Lynn Jones  
Tracy Feerick  
Mallina Lopez  
Patrick Geasan  
Ann McCormack  
Julia Haas  
Joe Farkas  
Damaris Nunez  
Richard Podhay  
Suzia Joa

**AFFILIATION**

CB8, Chair  
CB8  
CB8  
CB8  
CB8  
CB8  
rep. Bronx Borough President Diaz  
NYCDDC  
NYCDDC  
NYCDOT  
FIPNA  
  
Burke's Beal Bocht  
Burke's Beal Bocht  
NWBCCC  
  
URS  
Yo-Burger  
  
Church of the Visitation  
  
  
  
  
  
  
Riverdale Crossings

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM in the Manhattan College Fishbach Room by Chairman Dan Padernacht.

The committee reviewed two Unenclosed Sidewalk Cafe Applications:

1. Renewal: Burke's Beal Bocht Corp. d/b/a An Beal Bocht, 445 West 238<sup>th</sup> Street. The applicant was present and described his business and the application. Applicant has held license for 6 years. There are 4 tables w/ 20 seats & no change from past renewal.

The vote was 6 in favor – 0 opposed – 0 abstentions by committee members S. Alexander, B. Bender, M. Khury, D. Padernacht, R. Press, and H. Young.

2. New application- Yo Burger 3720-3726 Riverdale Avenue. The applicant was present and described his business and the application. Owner also owns another restaurant a few stores away which has a sidewalk cafe. Questions arose as to the size of this sidewalk café in comparison to the size of the sidewalk. The blueprints were checked by committee members.

The vote was 6 in favor – 0 opposed – 0 abstentions by committee members S. Alexander, B. Bender, M. Khury, D. Padernacht, R. Press, and H. Young.

The committee reviewed two Street Activity Permit Applications:

1. Amalgamated Nursery Spring Bazaar – Street Festival to be held on May 19, 2013 on Gale Place between Orloff Avenue & Van Cortlandt Park. South. The applicant was present and described the event and the application. Questions were answered and it was stated that this is an event that has been held for more than 25 years. Vendors will be present at the event.

The vote was 6 in favor – 0 opposed – 0 abstentions by committee members S. Alexander, B. Bender, M. Khury, D. Padernacht, R. Press, and H. Young.

2. Israeli Independence Day – Single Block Festival to be held on April 25, 2013 on Netherland Avenue between West 236<sup>th</sup> Street & the Northbound Henry Hudson Parkway Service Road. As this event is being sponsored by the Bronx Borough President's office, John DeSio of the Bronx Borough President's office was present and described the event and the application. The event is being moved from its former location on Independence Avenue.

The vote was 6 in favor – 0 opposed – 0 abstentions by committee members S. Alexander, B. Bender, M. Khury, D. Padernacht, R. Press, and H. Young.

The New York City Department of Design and Construction (DDC) returned to the committee to give a follow-up presentation on the Cannon Place retaining wall project. There were questions after the last presentation about the aesthetics of the wall. Photos of other projects were shown to the community. The project has a budget three million dollars and includes the replacement of the current water main underground. The project is slated to begin in the Fall of 2013 with a duration of 18 months. The 250 foot wall will be given a stone face finish. Monitoring devices will be placed to determine the noise level during construction. DDC stated that the impact to the community should only be 12 months. Questions of the height and type of wall and or fence on Cannon Place arose. DDC stated that they are mandated with certain restriction such as that the barrier must be at least 8 feet high for safety below the wall. A discussion of a wrought iron fence will be looked into by DDC if the cost is not prohibitive. Chair Padernacht called for a vote for the requested letter of support for the project requested by DDC.

The vote was 6 in favor – 0 opposed – 0 abstentions by committee members S. Alexander, B. Bender, M. Khury, D. Padernacht, R. Press, and H. Young.

Father Larkin of the Visitation Church spoke about the concerns of the Parish, the school and the community about tractor trailer trucks traveling through Putnam Avenue West to the new Riverdale Crossing Shopping Center presently under construction. The site is located on the former Stella Doro plant on West 238<sup>th</sup> Street and Broadway. Several parents of the Visitation School appeared and gave reasons as to why the trucks should travel on Putnam Avenue West. Mr. Joseph Farkas, developer of Riverdale Crossing, appeared at the meeting with the project's traffic consultant, Mr. Philip Habeeb. Mr. Farkas stated that he was not yet asked to come to the committee but had heard

of the neighborhood concerns and thought it was important to attend the meeting with his traffic consultant to listen to the concerns of the community. Mr. Habeeb stated that the trucks for BJs are coming from New Jersey and will be exiting the Major Deegan Expressway at West 230<sup>th</sup> Street. They will then travel north on Bailey Avenue to West 238<sup>th</sup> Street then into the shopping center. It was stated that BJ's does not send out its trucks during the peak daytime transit hours but at off-peak hour so that the unloading of trucks can occur overnight when customers are not in the store. There will be a total of 500 free parking spaces on site. It was stated that one in six shoppers at the Target store use mass transit. Mr. Habeeb believes that many shoppers will arrive by mass transit and leave by car service. There was a brief discussion of the possibility of a new traffic light at West 238<sup>th</sup> Street and Putnam Avenue West.

Questions arose as to the availability of the community to gain input and question the developer about the project prior to its inception. CB 8 Vice Chair Maria Khury stated that there were several meetings of the Economic Development Committee of CB 8 that discussed the matter of this new shopping center. Ms. Margaret Groake stated that she was not apprised her of those meetings even though she had spoken to the CB 8 office about the development and expressed concern over various issues. Further, Ms. Groake feels that she should have been called by the board office in regards to any meeting on the topic since she expressed concerns of the development. CB 8 Vice Chair Khury suggested that Ms. Groake go online to view the minutes of the meetings of the Economic Development Committee. T&T Chair Dan Padernacht added that he attended the one meeting in which the development was discussed at Uptown Sports the previous year. Further, it was the Economic Development Committee that handled the issue of the shopping center and that tonight's agenda was about the issue of proposed truck routes on Putnam Avenue. Chair Padernacht stated that he will ask the Board Chairman to have a joint meeting on the issues raised about the development.

The minutes of the December meeting were approved as written. The chair said that the agenda item of the request on Independence Avenue & West 247<sup>th</sup> Street will be moved to the next months meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 10:03 PM.

Dan Padernacht  
Chairman

Minutes submitted to the Chair by Vice-Chair Robert Press.