

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

MINUTES OF THE YOUTH COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON JUNE 26, 2013 AT THE BOARD OFFICE 5676 RIVERDALE AVENUE

Attendees

Lamont Parker
Rita Pochter Lowe
Derwin Greene
Nancy Nunez
Sara Marks
Wendy Garcia
Erik Maldonado
Charles Koroma
Maribel Felipe

Affiliation

Youth Chair
CB8
Kingsbridge Heights Community Center
Riverdale Neighborhood House
DYCD
DYCD
Advocate of Wordz
Bally's Fitness Instructor

The meeting was called to order [at 1:04pm](#)

The minutes of May 22, 2013 was unanimously approved

Chair Lamont Parker reported that the senior centers & community centers funded by NYCHA will not be closing in August. The \$58 million in funding has been restored as reported by the Mayor.

Chair Lamont Parker had the attendees introduce themselves.

Wendy Garcia from the Department of Youth & Community Development briefly gave an overview on the agency and the programs that are offered to the youth and their families. These programs include the following to name a few:

- Internships for Youth
- Literacy programs for adults and adolescents
- Out-Of –School Time Initiative
- Runaway and Homeless Youth services

The DYCD is here to help students from Elementary to the age of 24, find programs to help them. They offer so many different programs geared to help the youth that are in school/out of school/disconnected from school as well. These programs are offered at local community centers throughout the city. The committee asked if any of these programs are currently available in our local community board 8. As per Sara Marks from DYCD, they will have to get back to the community board and clarify which JFK location on their records has this program. For further information on these and other programs available the following website can be accessed www.nyc.gov/dycd.

Sara Marks from DYCD explained the Budget and gave an overview on the process on funding programs. Programs can be funded for one year or 3 years. Once a Community Center submits an RFP, it must be reviewed and there are certain criteria that must be met.

Based on the scores, its determined how much funding is granted to such Community Centers.

Please note the number provided are estimates and are subject to change once the voting on the budget is complete which was scheduled for the evening of June 26, 2013! *1.5 million is used for Summer Youth Programs. Certain programs are considered Baseline while other programs have to be reviewed and added on a yearly base. The Council negotiates for these programs. Sara provided us with a preliminary list of schools that currently have contracts, 1yr contracts, and 3yr contracts

- Children Arts & Science (Marble Hill)P.S. 95 Sheila Mencher
- P.S. 37 (Elementary & Middle School)Riverdale Community Center (141/Middle School)
- Riverdale Community Center
- Riverdale Neighborhood House
- In-Tech Academy

There are certain funds that are based on low economical areas. This data is gathered by the Census. Sara stated currently based on the last Census, 76% of low income/poverty areas were reported. They know that there are more areas but, it's based on how many people report to the Census. If you are interested to see what areas are part of the changes, log on to www.nyc.gov/dycd to find out more. The NDA (Neighborhood Development Association) receives *40 million a year to assist with Programs. The Kingsbridge Heights Community Center is one that uses the allocated funds on Teen Programs. Sara stated that once the voting is complete, she can provide the community board the actual numbers for the local Community Centers.

The Chair mentioned that the Van Cortlandt Park Golf Day is set for [July 24th from 10:30am to 3:30pm](#). Morning sessions are practically filled up by Fort Independence Community Center. All of the remaining communities need to setup afternoon sessions.

Erik Maldonado spoke about the great response and how successful the Poetry Slam turned out on May 23, 2013. Erik gave a special compliment to The Kingsbridge Heights Community Center, who had some great participants. All of the other participating communities had great kids representing them. Those who attended had a great time and the community youth board is looking to add more dates and hopefully make this event bigger and greater.

The Chair explained at this meeting, the details about the Come Back Kid Award. This award will be given to the child who has shown a mass improvement in school work and has worked hard. Each Community will need to pick preferably one child from their center, to receive this award. The Come Back Kid Award is scheduled for some time in December 2013. Further information will be discussed at the next meeting.

Chair mentioned the Youth Job Fair scheduled for some time in April of 2014. The DYCD would like to assist with this since they have put together various Job Fairs. A meeting will be setup in August 2013 with the Chair to further discuss how to go about finding a location and having a successful Youth Job Fair.

Derwin Green reminded everyone on how The Kingsbridge Heights Community Center is having a Youth Market which will be geared not just to the kids but the parents as well. This Youth Market will be very helpful in showing kids/parents on healthy cooking alternatives. Tentatively these markets will be setup near the Target area and the Kingsbridge area as well. Actual dates are still being negotiated.

Charles Koroma from Bally's Fitness spoke about how he would love to form fitness programs geared towards kids. Mini Boot Camp and other activities which will help kids become more active. Keeping kids active will help them work towards having a healthier adult life. Wendy Garcia from DYCD did mention that there are programs in certain local community centers that help kids stay active. One particular program mentioned is the Riverdale Soccer team which is part of the Youth Athletic Program. Wendy also mentioned a program called "Shape It Up" which is run through the Parks Program and are partners with DYCD. Charles and Wendy will stay in contact so that DYCD can put Charles in contact with the right people who can help him with his project.

Erick Maldonado mentioned having a Math Olympics which the other local community centers can get involved in, to make Math fun! This is still in the works and no date has been picked as of yet. Different Math levels for the kids who participate will be established. Single & Team competitions will also be created. Wendy from DYCD liked the idea and would like to help by finding resources/vendors to assist as well. Further discussions will be made.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned [at 2:31pm](#). Next board meeting will be in September 2013 [at 1pm](#). Location and date to be decided.

Submitted by,

Lamont Parker, Chair
Youth Committee