

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8**

**MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE  
MEETING HELD AT THE BOARD OFFICE ON  
FEBRUARY 18, 2014**

**PRESENT**

Daniel Padernacht  
Robert Press  
Sylvia Alexander  
Bob Bender  
Tony Creaney  
Mike Heller  
Maria Khury  
Georgia Santiago  
I.W. Stone  
Andrew Sandler  
Myra Joyce  
Jane Folloro  
Colleen Farrell  
John Farrell  
Cliff Stanton  
Rebecca Patt  
Nathaniel Solomon  
Mr. Ben-Meir

**AFFILIATION**

CB8, Committee Chair  
CB8, Committee Vice Chair  
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rep. Councilman Cohen  
Kingsbridge Heights Community Center

Chairman Dan Padernacht opened the meeting at 7:35 PM, a quorum was present. This meeting was originally scheduled for January 21st and then February 3rd, both of which were canceled due to snow.

Mr. Ben Meir of 3616 Henry Hudson Parkway is requesting a loading zone for residents of the building named the Algiers. He said that the building has 120 units but only a small garage with an eight year wait list. He added that many residents have to unload packages by a fire hydrant or double park with many getting tickets. He is requesting that one parking space on the HHP service road next to the fire hydrant in front of the Algiers be made into a loading/unloading area for the residents.

The Chair read a letter sent to him from the Algiers coop board which is against this proposal. The Chair asked if there is additional support other than Mr. Ben Meir. The answer was no at this time. The Chair suggested that the resident speak to other community members about the issue and inquire about additional support and then come back to the Committee. The applicant stated that government should be helping in this matter and the Chair stated that government deals with scarce resources and the needs of the people must be balanced. The Chair stated that parking is limited in our Community Board and it is rare that this Committee recommends that parking be eliminated except for safety reasons. The Chair further noted that there are hundreds of buildings in this Community Board that do not have loading zones and if a loading zone is created for this building then it would leave open the same request to remove parking in front of all buildings in Community Board 8.

## SAPO applications:

PS 24 Springfest SAPO Application. The event is scheduled for June 24, 2014 and to be held on West 235<sup>th</sup> Street between Independence & Douglas Avenues. There will be a full street closure. Mr. Clifford Stanton of the PS 24 Parents Association spoke on behalf of PS 24 for this event. The event has been previously held. The Chair called for a vote:

8 in favor - S. Alexander, B. Bender, A. Creaney, M. Heller, M. Khury, D. Padernacht, G. Santiago and I.W. Stone

0 against

1 abstention for cause - R. Press.

Kingsbridge Heights Community Festival SAPO Application. The event is scheduled for April 12, 2014 and to be held on Kingsbridge Terrace between Perot Street & Summit Place. There will be a full street closure. Ms. Jane Folloro from Kingsbridge Hts. Community Center spoke for this event. The event has been previously held. The Chair called for a vote:

9 in favor - S. Alexander, B. Bender, A. Creaney, M. Heller, M. Khury, D. Padernacht, R. Press, G. Santiago, B. Stone

0 against

0 Abstentions

April Birthday Neighborhood Block Party SAPO Application. The event is scheduled for April 12, 2014 and to be held on Spencer Avenue between West 261<sup>st</sup> & West 262<sup>nd</sup> Streets. There will be a full street closure. Ms. Colleen Farrell of Spencer Avenue spoke for the event. This is the first time the event is being held. It is a combination birthday party and street reunion. This is a private event and not open to the public. Ms. Farrell presented a petition with 20 signatures of residents of the block as support for the event. The Chair called for a vote:

9 in favor - S. Alexander, B. Bender, A. Creaney, M. Heller, M. Khury, D. Padernacht, R. Press, G. Santiago, B. Stone

0 against

0 Abstentions

Israeli Independence Day SAPO Application was laid over to next month as no representative appeared at the meeting.

There was a request for additional parking along Stevenson Place in the Van Cortlandt Village area. Ms. R. Pott & Mr. N. Solomon of 3850 Sedgwick Avenue explained that many years ago there was parking along the stone wall on the stretch of Stevenson Avenue where there were 10 – 12 parking spaces. It is believed that these spaces were eliminated for Fire Department egress to the back of the Van Cortlandt Jewish Center. A. Sandler of Councilman Cohen's office

said that he would check with the Fire Department as it was mentioned that the parking was eliminated so that the huge Hook and Ladder trucks (no longer in use by the FDNY) could get to the back of the Jewish Center building. Assemblyman Dinowitz's office is in favor of the restoration of parking along the stone wall.

A vote taken to send a letter to DOT to restore the parking subject to FDNY approval.

9 in favor - S. Alexander, B. Bender, A. Creaney, M. Heller, M. Khury, D. Padernacht, R. Press, G. Santiago, I.W. Stone

City Bike Rack application for Albany Crescent between West 239<sup>th</sup> Street & Bailey Avenue. Vice-Chair R. Press said that he had visited the site which is an overlook to the Major Deegan Expressway and across from the applicant's address. He said that in questioning residents he was told that this overlook area is an area where dog owners take their dogs. The area tends to accumulate dog waste and some residents hope that the bike rack will mitigate that. Since the applicant was not present the Chair moved the item to the next committee meeting.

The minutes of the November meeting were submitted to the Committee for approval. M. Khury sought the following amendments:

Page 3, Paragraph 5: Add - M. Khury asked if Con Ed was doing any tree pruning. Con Ed stated that through an agreement with Parks they have finished pruning the trees within the district so as to restrict impact during snow storms. Presently they are pruning Palisades Avenue.

Page 4 Paragraph 7: Add - M Khury asked about any agreements with NYC Tourism. Representatives indicated there is a discussion. B. Fanuzzi and M. Khury advised them to speak with the Bronx Council of Tourism. B. Fanuzzi and M. Khury will suggest to EDC Chair S. Villaverde to invite both parties (Taxi & BCT) to its meeting to discuss options.

Page 4 Paragraph 8: Add - Not to exclude the Marble Hill area in this proposal.

The amended minutes were submitted to the Committee for a vote:

9 in favor - S. Alexander, B. Bender, A. Creaney, M. Heller, M. Khury  
D. Padernacht, R. Press, G. Santiago, I.W. Stone

The December minutes were approved as written and submitted to the committee for a vote:

8 in favor - S. Alexander, B. Bender, A. Creaney, M. Heller, D. Padernacht,  
R. Press, G. Santiago, I.W. Stone

0 against

1 abstention - M. Khury

New Business – M. Heller spoke of the conditions of the city streets. He asked that the committee vote to ask to have the current amount of yearly street resurfacing for the community board area doubled. A. Sandler said that he would inquire as to what the current budget for DOT resurfacing per community board is and check the 10 year Capital Budget Plan. It was then suggested to have DOT come to the next meeting to explain the pot hole and street resurfacing plan.

There was discussion about the snow removal and the conditions that happened after all the snow. It was mentioned to ask the Department of Sanitation to explain its process for snow removal at a future meeting.

Georgia Santiago mentioned that the triangle at Broadway and West 230<sup>th</sup> Street has accumulated a thick sheet of ice in the past few weeks and has yet to be removed. A. Sandler said he will try to find out who is responsible for the snow removal at this location.

Bob Bender asked about the Greenstreet at Fort Independence Avenue and Bailey Place. Mr. Bender said that it is not a Greenstreet by DOT or the Parks Department. Further, it is his understanding that DDC will put top soil and the Parks Department will plant in the area.

Robert Press brought up that the Aging Committee is requesting more talking crosswalks since there is only one currently in the Community Board at Kappock Street and Netherland Avenue. Michael Heller said that it took the Morris Park Community four years to get a talking crosswalk. He added that there is a unit inside DOT as a citywide program for sight impaired or NORC areas. The only NORC in CB 8 is currently the Amalgamated Housing area.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 PM.

Dan Padernacht, Chair  
Traffic & Transportation Committee