

## BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

### MINUTES OF THE TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 20, 2015, AT MANHATTAN COLLEGE, 3825 CORLEAR AVENUE

Attendance – CB 8 Committee members - M. Heller Chair, R. Press Vice-Chair, B. Bender, D. Fuchs, J. O'Brien, G. Santiago, H. Young, and Community Committee member M. Joyce.

Assemblyman J. Dinowitz, J. Demko (Asm. Dinowitz), Andrew Sandler (CM Cohen), D. Gellman, Tracy Shelton (KRVDC) Johnson Ave SAPO, S. Riverdale merchants M. Curanaj, B. Geitz, R. Shomalor, C. Casey, V. Da Silva, and S. Catechis (S. Riverdale SAPO application), J. Vilanuga and C. Ramos (Kingsbridge Road SAPO)

The meeting was held at the Manhattan College School of Engineering 3825 Corlear Avenue Fischbach Room 4<sup>th</sup> Floor. The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM, a quorum was not in order.

Chair Heller asked for comments of the December minutes, hearing none he did not take a vote due to the lack of quorum, laying the matter over to the next meeting. Since applicants for the SAPO applications were present the chair moved on to hear from the applicants.

1 - S. Riverdale Avenue Street Festival: Several merchants and Ms. Shelton spoke of the change from a street fair to a 'Movie Night' on South Riverdale Avenue. This is to be done on Thursday July 30<sup>th</sup> with Riverdale Avenue being closed from West 236<sup>th</sup> Street to West 238<sup>th</sup> Streets from approximately 4 PM to 9/10 PM. There will be a giant screen set up just north of the West 236<sup>th</sup> Street intersection, and the local merchants will be selling food. Questions included: having a 15 foot safety lane for emergency vehicles, and if liquor will be served. Ms. Shelton said that there would be an emergency lane open, and any liquor would be served inside those establishments with proper liquor licenses only.

2 – Johnson Avenue Block Festival: Ms. Shelton spoke about the event, and presented photos of previous events. There were no questions.

3 – North Riverdale Merchants Street Festival: The chair said in talking to Ms. Shelton it was agreed that this would be laid over to the next committee meeting so that any problems that may have occurred in the past are fully taken care of. Mr. Heller said the street configuration would have to change to permit two way bus and emergency traffic, and that would have to be discussed with NYCT representatives.

4 – Kingsbridge Road Merchants: The chair of the Kingsbridge Road Merchants Association said that this event would be the same as last year that was a big success. Since this is held on Reservoir Avenue which is in Community Board 8 and 7 they will be going to CB 7 after this presentation to CB 8.

Since there was still no quorum the committee did not vote on the SAPO applications.

On the request to residents in Marble Hill the idling of CSX diesel trains at the Marble Hill area of the Hudson line of Metro North was next. The chair said that while these tracks may be the Metro North Hudson line, that CSX has trackage rights. He said that CSX claims Metro North is requiring their trains to be held in such a way so they must wait in the Marble Hill area. Metro North says the opposite, and the trains should be idling by the Target shopping center below Marble Hill.

The Chair also mentioned another situation of Liquid Petroleum being shipped by CSX on the Hudson line. He said that he will contact Councilman Rodriguez's office where the Councilman is the chair of the City Council Transportation Committee for guidance and a solution. D. Gellman said that he noticed a wash out a few weeks ago at the Marble Hill Metro North Station, which the chair said he would investigate further.

Tech International School request for a loading/unloading zone for two small buses: Vice-Chair Press gave a report on a survey he did. There are six homes next to the school on the north side, all have no driveways. Two homes across the street also have no driveways. A 22 story building occupies the rest of the street next to the two homes, north and south is the Kingsbridge Jewish Center. In front of the center is a hydrant and a no parking zone. Upon observing dismissal more than once cars were parked in the school buildings driveway, in front of the hydrant, in the no parking area, and several double parked in front of the school. One bus was double parked in front of the school, and another several cars north of the school. The driver said that a loading/unloading area would be nice, but agreed that cars would park there like they do by the driveway, hydrant, and temple no parking area. In speaking to 3 of the 8 homeowners they were all against taking away parking with all three saying it is hard enough to find parking as it is. One man who rents said he couldn't care, because he parks in a garage. He then said the owner moved away because of the lack of parking in the area. Assemblyman Dinowitz said that he was told the school would be for area students, and if approved it would eliminate parking for 10 hours. A conscious of the committee was that all seven board members and the Community Committee member were against the loading zone, and the chair closed the issue noting that no one from the school appeared tonight.

Even though there was no quorum the chair asked for conscious on the 3 SAPO applications.

S. Riverdale Avenue Street Festival - all 7 board members and the community committee members agreed in favor.

Johnson Avenue Street Festival – all 7 board members and the community committee members agreed in favor.

Kingsbridge Avenue Street Festival – board members M. Heller, B. Bender, D. Fuchs, J. O'Brien, G. Santiago, H. Young, and community committee member M. Joyce were in favor with board member R. Press abstaining for cause.

#### **Old/New Business:**

B. Geitz of Tiny's Diner on Riverdale Avenue wanted to know how his delivery people could park when delivering without getting ticketed. He asked if there was such a thing as a paid permit for delivery vehicles, and the 5 minute grace period. The chair replied that the 5 minute grace period is for metered parking, and asked Councilman Cohen's representative to look into this to find a solution. It was said that the city received 250 million dollars in revenue from increased parking fines.

The chair mentioned placement of possible alternate side parking on Manhattan College Parkway as you turn right from the parkway service road. The request has come in from the building on the corner due to the filth on the roadway at the curbs. The chair commented there are other areas of the Community Board that do not have alternate side parking

R. Press asked for the current no parking zone 7:30 – 4:30 for bus loading and unloading on West 235<sup>th</sup> Street in back of PS 24 be changed to No Standing since cars are parking in the loading/unloading zone, and the large buses have to double park which blocks the two way street. He mentioned that there have also been many instances where damage has been

done to legally parked cars across from PS 24. The chair wants to check with PS 24 before doing anything on the matter.

A tow company in the staples parking lot is towing cars again, and demanding cash for release of the cars where the driver leaves the parking lot for other areas to shop. The chair will check this out.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Minutes submitted by Vice-Chair Robert Press for approval.