

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

**MINUTES OF THE YOUTH COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON JANUARY 28, 2015 AT
Riverdale Neighborhood House
5521 Mosholu Ave.
Bronx, NY 10471**

Attendees

Lamont Parker
Demetrius McCord
Rita Pochter Lowe
Nancy Nunez
Caitlin Proscia
Cy Nesbit
Erik Maldonado

Affiliation

Youth Chair
Vice Chair
Community Board No. 8
Riverdale Neighborhood House
RNH College Directions Coordinator
Resident
Advocate of Words

Executive Director, Daniel M. Eudene, gave the group a tour of the new RNH building, study spaces, gym and pool.

Old Business

The meeting was called to order at 4:30PM.

Youth Chair, Lamont Parker, reviewed December minutes with all present. Motion made to approve minutes from December 2014 meeting. Minutes were approved.

New Business

Grow NYC - Chair gave group a brief background on the GROW NYC initiative. Program promotes healthy eating and supports local farmers. Some residents receive "Health Bucks," which are given to seniors and the underserved. The goal is to promote healthy living and eating. Vice-chair mentioned eligibility requirements to receive health bucks.

BE IT RESOLVED, that Bronx Community Board No. 8, in partnership with the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, supports the continuation of GrowNYC.

Vote: 3 in favor, 0 Opposed, 0 Abstentions

Board members In Favor:

L. Parker, D. McCord, and Rita Pochter Lowe.

Comeback Kid Award - Winners are awarded a plaque at board meeting and photographed with elected officials. Question arose as to how to sustain their involvement. Vice-chair suggested that former Comeback Kids present new awards, which are presented the second Tuesday of each April. Attendees suggested bringing winners to Poetry Slam in May for

recognition. Youth Chair currently investigating ways to continue to surround the youth with positive influences.

Poetry Slam – May 13th will be the 3rd year. There are five judges, and each participant will have three minutes to present. This year we'll have a BRIO Award winner on the panel of judges. There will be two groups: 11-14 and 15-18. The top two contestants from each group compete against each other. This year, the event is being opened up to youth from the East Bronx. Youth Chair mentioned that Bronx Net, YouTube, and CB website will publish actual event. One member suggested creating a book of these poems. However, Erik Maldonado mentioned that financial restraints and lack of resources may prohibit this. Erik Maldonado suggested bringing back "sacrificial poet" to develop excitement and an opportunity for the kids to participate without being judged.

Needs Assessment - Vice chair briefed attendees on the purpose of the metric. Metric should be youth-driven. Ad hoc committee will be created from the staff of neighboring non-profits.

RNH College Directions – Director, Caitlin Proscia gave an update on the program. RNHCD has reached out to schools to let them know they are providing HS Grads or those who have GEDs SAT classes and workshops. Program helps with the college admission process, essays, and SAT testing. A workshop on need based aid and Financial Aid will be held on Wednesday, February 18th at 6:30 PM. The main benefit of program is a one-one-one interaction with students and families.

Riverdale Neighborhood House Community Center - Nancy Nunez gave a brief update:

- Summer camp and pool program
- Internship program with Kingsbridge Heights Youth (e.g. CB 7, Montefiore BX NET, ,and, two new business ventures)
- OST/Sonic Program at 368 for Middle School serves 5th through 8th graders from September - June serves 160 kids (135 kids contracted)
- Basketball Team for 6 - 8 year olds: 7 week basketball program

Future Business

Youth Speak Out - The Youth Chair is currently working with Bronx NET on this event.

CB #8 is currently looking for a new DM. There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 5:13PM. The next Youth committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 25th, 2015, at Kingsbridge Heights Community Center.

Submitted by,

Lamont Parker, Chair
Youth Committee