

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO.8
MINUTES OF THE YOUTH COMMITTEE MEETING
Held on September 28, 2016 at
Community Board No. 8 Office
5676 Riverdale Avenue Suite 100
Bronx, New York 10471

PRESENT: Lamont. Parker - Youth Chairperson
Sadie Mahoney - Kingsbridge Heights Community Center
Phoebe Downes - Riverdale Neighborhood House
Judith Green - Community Resident
Daniella Fuchs - Community Board 8 Youth Committee Member
James Santiago - New Community Board 8 Youth Committee Member

GUEST: Maribel Felipe

ABSENT: Rita Pochter Lowe, Demetrius McCord

Meeting Commenced at 1:10pm. August minutes weren't approved.

Youth Report - The Golf event was successful and everyone had a great time. The draft Youth Resource Guide is complete and will be shared for review. The poetry slam was held by Kingsbridge Heights Community Center last year and the participants shared a lot of impactful experiences. The chairman would like to start a writing session next year where students will be able to write their stories. They will be able to share their story with a small panel of peers which will help build confidence and help others facing difficult issues. It also helps with Public Speaking. Currently the centers have group discussions on certain topics that affects the youth.

The programs at Kingsbridge Heights Community Center have started and are going well. The soync program, which helps middle school kids with homework, and also provides activities is packed. With 90 slots usually available, this time had almost 120 kids sign up. The center had such a great turnout last year for the Poetry Slam, that it might host it again this year. One of the providers for the center was affected by the explosion that occurred on 9/27/16 which caused structural damage.

The Riverdale Neighborhood House had a great summer. Some of the kids had the opportunity to enjoy the golf event. Their programs kicked off well this year. The soync program draws in a lot of kids and they are thrilled to have so many. The center is currently looking for a new College Coordinator to run the program which helps the students prepare for college. The chess event which was such a success might be held again. It's possible that the center might want to have the chess available more often but this will need to be further discussed. The Teen Center is scheduled to open in October.

Fort Independence garden is moving along well as reported by the Chairman who currently has been assisting them. Right now they are working on replacing the contaminated soil. The raised beds are in the works as well. Further update will be provided at the next meeting.

Judith who is a community resident and also on the Education committee spoke about how the kids can get involved in voting on community budget items. This is something that was brought up at the last meeting on spreading the word out so that the youth can get involved. Judith has also volunteered to provide feedback on the Youth Resource Guide.

The Youth committee also has a new member James Santiago. Mr. Santiago is a veteran and has worked with the youth as well. He was a CEO for six years. He advocated for the homeless as well as worked on the water filtration project too. He is looking forward to being a part of the Committee and share his experiences with others to benefit the youth of our community.

The next meeting will be held at Wave Hill on October 26, 2016 at 1pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:47pm

Lamont Parker, Chair
Youth Committee