

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING

HELD ON OCTOBER 14, 2014

AT FORT INDEPENDENCE HOUSES COMMUNITY CENTER, 3340 BAILEY AVENUE

PRESENT: S. Alexander, S. Balicer, B. Bender, A. P. Creaney, L. Daub, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, A. G. Feldmeier, P. Friedman, M. Galvin, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, M. Heller, M. Khury, D. Kornbluh, I. Ladimer, D. Lennon, R. Pochter Lowe, S. Marquez, D. McCord, J. O'Brien, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, A. Piscitelli, R. Press, J. M. Reyes, G. Santiago, G. Singleton, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, D. Toledo, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, H. Young, M. Zegarra-Soja

ABSENT: L. Baez, M. Donato, M. Felix, A. Fella, B. Fettman, S. Froot, D. Fuchs, C. G. Moerdler, A. Moore, J. M. Pilsner, J. Rather, X. Sanchez

STAFF: N. Stent – District Manager
D. Bay – Community Associate
P. Manning – Community Associate

GUESTS: G. Rivera, State Senator
J. Dinowitz, Assemblyman
F. Cabrera, Councilman
M. Blaustein – rep. State Senator Jeffrey Klein
V. Brown – rep. Congressman Charles Rangel
K. Cooper – Office of Councilman Fernando Cabrera
J. Demko – Office of Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz
G. Faulkner – Office of Councilman Cabrera
D. Greenblatt – rep. Congressman Eliot Engel
G. Rodriguez – rep. State Senator Gustavo Rivera
A. Sandler – Office of Councilman Andrew Cohen
E. Sullivan – rep. Public Advocate Letitia James
A. Toledo – rep. Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.
P.O. Cordero, NYPD, 50th Police Precinct
P.O. Ramos, NYPD, 50th Police Precinct
P. Adams
J. Bal – CUNY News
C. O'Brien
V. Brown
R. Brown-Barbier
M. Buffington
D. Burke
E. Garcia
D. Gellman
K. Green
B. Heller
B. Kochman – Daily News
L. Mercado
D. McShane
T. O'Connor
R. Palma
K. Rose – Montefiore Hospital

R. Spalter
M. White
J. Young

Chairman Padernacht convened the meeting for the Public Hearing on the Capital and Expense Budget Priorities Requests for Fiscal Year 2016 at 7:05 P.M. Chairman deferred to the Treasurer to conduct the hearing as there was a momentary vacancy of a Budget Chairperson.

P. Friedman, Treasurer provided an overview of the budget process and formation of the requests. He explained that the development of budget requests is one of the main functions of community boards. He advised that the FY 2016 budget requests were prioritized by the Executive Committee which consists of all the committees' chairs and board officers. These budget priorities are based on the submissions from the Board committees following consultations with their respective city agencies, approved at the committee level and then submitted to the budget chair for listing. Community boards can select up to 40 Capital Budget requests and 25 Expense Budget requests. Requests for funding in the Capital Budget covers the cost of the physical improvements to the City's infrastructure and public facilities, for land acquisition and major equipment costing more than \$35,000, essentially the City's long-term construction programs; reconstruction of streets, sewers, parks and buildings are examples of capital projects. Capital budget items are financed by the sale of Municipal Bonds as well as by State and Federal grants. Requests for funding in the Expense Budget covers all the City's day-to-day operations, programs, supplies and personnel. It is supported by City taxes, fees and other local revenue as well as State and Federal aid.

The Treasurer opened the floor for speakers from the public on Budget Requests for FY 2016. Hearing none he asked for comments from the Board on the FY 2016 Budget priorities consisting of 20 Capital requests and 25 Expense requests which had been distributed to the Board for review. Following discussion and revisions to the Expense budget requests, Chairman called for a vote on the Budget priorities.

The attached Capital and Expense budget priorities for FY 2016 were approved by a vote of 36 in favor, 0 opposed and 0 abstentions:

In Favor –

S. Alexander, S. Balicer, B. Bender, A. P. Creaney, L. Daub, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, A. G. Feldmeier, P. Friedman, M. Galvin, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, M. Heller, M. Khury, D. Kornbluh, I. Ladimer, D. Lennon, R. Pochter Lowe, S. Marquez, D. McCord, J. O'Brien, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, A. Piscitelli, R. Press, J. M. Reyes, G. Santiago, G. Singleton, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, D. Toledo, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, H. Young, M. Zegarra-Soja

The hearing was closed at 7:40 PM and Chairman Padernacht proceeded with the Board meeting.

1. Gallery Session

- A. Rebecca Brown-Barbier, NYPL Riverdale Branch, thanked the Board for its high ranking budget support of the Riverdale, Spuyten Duyvil, and Van Cortlandt Branch Libraries. She reiterated the crucial need for funding for various renovations, new roof, replacement of items such as HVAC system and other equipment. She discussed the many programs offered by the library that are a benefit to all age categories including older adults.

- B. Karen Green advised of her recent visit to Kingsbridge Heights Community Center. She found that the available materials for the children and teachers are lacking; and a good cleanup of the art room could be most effective for an enrichment program. She plans to contact Councilman Cabrera's office for funding support, and she will work with the Center to move the programs forward. Ms. Green added her support to the Board's Budget Request for the Center.
- C. Deirdre Burke, Member of the Steering Committee of the Broadway Alliance regarding the Selfhelp building development at 6469 Broadway. She asked for Board support of the resolution passed by the Land Use Committee calling for a moratorium on construction. She discussed opposing concerns with parking, building height, and other issues. Ms. Burke called upon elected officials to intervene with investigating the building design to decrease height and their support on the call for a moratorium with construction.
2. Chairman welcomed the following guests: Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz; Senator Gustavo Rivera; Councilman Fernando Cabrera; Ed Sullivan, representing Public Advocate Letitia James; Andy Toledo, representing Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.; Andrew Sandler, representing Councilman Andrew Cohen; Justin Demko, Office of Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz; Karen Cooper, Office of Councilman Cabrera; Guillermo Rodriguez, Office of Senator Gustavo Rivera; Michael Blaustein, representing Senator Jeffrey Klein; David Greenblatt, representing Congressman Eliot Engel; Valone Brown, representing Congressman Charles Rangel; Greg Faulkner, Office of Councilman Fernando Cabrera; and P.O. Ramos, 50th Precinct, NYPD.
3. Chairman invited P.O. Ramos to address the Board.
- P.O. Ramos distributed form for email sign-up to receive from NYPD concerning crime prevention, youth programs, blockwatchers, community council, ride-along program, citizen's police academy, operation safe child, and at-risk youth programs. Vision Zero literature for pedestrian safety, motorists, and bike smart tips was also provided.
4. Chairman invited Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz to address the Board.
- Assemblyman Dinowitz discussed the recent meeting with the Selfhelp Working Group that took place on October 9th, and the resolution passed by the Land Use Committee calling for a moratorium on construction of the Selfhelp development. While he does not have a problem with the building, he is concerned with the height of the building being out of scale with other buildings in the neighborhood. Therefore he thinks the Board is on the right track with the resolution; Was in touch with State DOT to facilitate the repair of the crumbling wall along the Henry Hudson Parkway at West 232nd Street. Repairs were done, but he is calling for future reconstruction that may become necessary; The traffic island installed last year at the intersection of Sedgwick Avenue and Van Cortlandt Avenue West had been a traffic hazard. Was able to get DOT to reduce the width of the island and traffic conditions are improved; DOT is also created eight new crucial parking spaces along Van Cortlandt Avenue West; Mayor de Blasio was at the JFK High School Campus recently to the installation of solar energy panels on the building's roof; A ribbon cutting was held at Riverdale Senior Services for their new garden and terrace, awning, and handicap-accessible lift. Assemblyman Dinowitz secured \$175K in state funds for

this project; He discussed the closing of the ice rink at Van Cortlandt Park and reviewed the original process of the selection of location which was not public. He stated that he was in favor of the rink, but had questioned the location. Assemblyman urged the Community Board to conduct a thorough review for the next usage of the spot where the rink had been.

5. Chairman invited Senator Gustavo Rivera to address the Board.

Senator Rivera advised of office staff changes. Katrina Asante is new Chief of Staff and Guillermo Rodriguez is liaison to the Community Board. He discussed the recent deadly accident involving an ATV on Bailey Avenue, same street of Fort Independence Houses.

6. Chairman invited Councilman Fernando Cabrera to address the Board.

Councilman Cabrera advised of his funding allocation to NYCHA Housing for new kitchen appliances of stoves and refrigerators, and including monies for other upgrades. Councilman Cabrera is co-sponsor of a City Council resolution for a new bill calling upon the United States Congress to pass, and the President of the United States to sign S.2182, the Suicide Prevention for American Veterans Act, legislation expanding and improving care provided to veterans and service members with mental health disorders or are at risk for suicide; Traffic light repairs turn-around repair time is now 24 hours; Rikers Island Correctional facility has been given new mandates for juvenile offenders mainly with respect to solitary confinement; There is a gang prevention program in district; His free flu shots program was administered earlier that day; The Council voted on a Cleanup Initiative of 16 blocks per day; The installation of security cameras are showing 60% decrease in crime.

7. Chairman's Report

Chairman Padernacht reported:

- Officers are moving forward toward greater efficiency in Board office.
- Still working on budget items for ways to save money.
- The Chairman, Vice Chair and District Manager attended a meeting at the Borough President's office regarding Special Needs and Supportive Housing. This will be discussed with relevant committees.
- Working on outreach, which is a priority for the community board.
- Working on updating the Board's newsletter with conversion to in-house system.

8. Report from the Office of the Bronx Borough President – A. Toledo

Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. is hosting the annual Tour de Bronx on October 26th. Registration is still open. Visit tourdebronx.org. The tour starts at the Bronx County Building at Grand Concourse & 161st Street and ends with a music festival at the New York Botanical Garden.

9. Treasurer's Report

The report was distributed in an email in advance of the meeting. A pie chart of spending was issued to provide an understanding of where money is going. Union staff received raises. Monies differential not received in budget yet.

10. District Manager's report

The report is contained in the minutes of Executive Committee meeting. N. Stent added that there was an additional budget consultation with HRA that was successful because of the Commissioner being present. HRA has made some changes to the education requirements for public assistance and income maintenance and training programs will be able to count attendance at four-year colleges toward employment training requirements. It was also noted in Borough Budget Consultations a lot of discussion over updating processes and procedures and plans by the new City Administration, but most notably the agencies are working together.

S. Villaverde inquired of the District Manager about guidelines, procedures and information available with respect to FOIL requests. The District Manager gave a review.

11. Election to Fill Budget Committee Chair Vacancy Pursuant to Bylaws, Article V, Sec. 3

Chairman opened the floor for nominations.

S. Villaverde nominated Mercedes Zegarra-Soja and she accepted. Hearing no other nominations, Chairman closed nominations and called for a vote. By unanimous decision, the Board elected Mercedes Zegarra-Soja to the position of Budget Committee Chair.

Vote: 36 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions

In Favor –

S. Alexander, S. Balicer, B. Bender, A. P. Creaney, L. Daub, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, A. G. Feldmeier, P. Friedman, M. Galvin, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, M. Heller, M. Khury, D. Kornbluh, I. Ladimer, D. Lennon, R. Pochter Lowe, S. Marquez, D. McCord, J. O'Brien, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, A. Piscitelli, R. Press, J. M. Reyes, G. Santiago, G. Singleton, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, D. Toledo, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, H. Young, M. Zegarra-Soja

12. Committee Reports

A. Environment & Sanitation – R. Fanuzzi

1. Discussed environmental value of composting and community gardens.
2. Committee will discuss gatehouses being demolished in Jerome Park at its meeting on October 29th, at Amalgamated Houses, Vladek Hall, at 7:30 PM. All are urged to attend.

B. Health, Hospitals & Social Services

L. Daub reported on behalf of the Chair.

1. The Committee met in September. The next meeting will be held on October 20th, at the Board Office, at 7:30 PM.

C. Housing – P. Ellis

1. S. Marquez announced the upcoming Community Board forum for programs to help freeze your rent or reduce your homeownership costs. The event will be held on Monday, October 27th at the Kingsbridge Library, from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Assemblyman Dinowitz will be guest speaker and representatives from NYC Department of Finance will be in attendance. Discussion on programs Senior Citizens Rent Increase Exemptions, Disability Citizens Rent Increase, Senior Citizen Homeowners Exemption, and Enhanced Star Exemption.

D. Land Use – M. Wolpoff, Vice Chair

1. M. Wolpoff presented the following resolutions from the Land Use Committee meeting held on October 2, 2014:

- I. **RESOLVED**, Community Board No. 8 Bronx approves City Planning Commission Application (N 120068 ZAX) and the related drawings submitted pursuant to Sections 105-421 of the Zoning Resolution, for the grant of an authorization involving modifications of topographic features on Tier I sites, to allow the expansion of a single-family home that will include an indoor swimming pool and new two-car garage on property located at 695 West 246th Street (Block 5925, Lot 586) within the Special Natural Area District (NA-2).

Vote: 35 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention

In Favor –

S. Alexander, S. Balicer, B. Bender, A. P. Creaney, L. Daub, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, A. G. Feldmeier, P. Friedman, M. Galvin, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, M. Heller, M. Khury, D. Kornbluh, I. Ladimer, D. Lennon, R. Pochter Lowe, S. Marquez, D. McCord, J. O'Brien, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, A. Piscitelli, R. Press, G. Santiago, G. Singleton, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, D. Toledo, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, H. Young, M. Zegarra-Soja

Abstention –

J. M. Reyes

- II. **RESOLVED**, Community Board No. 8 Bronx approves City Planning Commission Application (N 150116 ZAX) and the related drawings submitted pursuant to Sections 105-421, 105-422, and 105-431 of the Zoning Resolution, for the grant of authorizations involving the modification of topographic features on Tier I sites, an authorization of a development, enlargement, or site alteration on a Tier II site or portion of a zoning lot having a steep slope buffer, and a modification of the lot

control regulations to allow the expansion of a single-family home that will include an indoor swimming pool and two story addition on property located at 691 West 247th Street (Block 5926, Lot 16) within the Special Natural Area District (NA-2).

Vote: 35 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention

In Favor –

S. Alexander, S. Balicer, B. Bender, A. P. Creaney, L. Daub, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, A. G. Feldmeier, P. Friedman, M. Galvin, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, M. Heller, M. Khury, D. Kornbluh, I. Ladimer, D. Lennon, R. Pochter Lowe, S. Marquez, D. McCord, J. O'Brien, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, A. Piscitelli, R. Press, G. Santiago, G. Singleton, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, D. Toledo, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, H. Young, M. Zegarra-Soja

Abstention –

J. M. Reyes

- III. **RESOLVED**, Community Board No. 8 Bronx approves the request by Metropolitan Realty Associates LLC, for permission to do interior, mechanical work on site at Riverdale Crossings (Block 3270, Lot 18) shopping mall on four Sundays from October 12 through November 9, 2014.

D. Toledo asked about the item not being on the Land Use agenda and no community notification. It was explained that the Board had received the notice at the last minute, and it was added under New Business due to the turn-around time for Board recommendation. There would be no noise disturbance to the community as it would be interior work only. After further discussion, the question was called. The following vote resulted:

Vote: 29 in favor, 2 opposed, and 5 abstentions

In Favor –

S. Alexander, S. Balicer, B. Bender, A. P. Creaney, L. Daub, P. Ellis, R. A. G. Feldmeier, M. Galvin, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, M. Heller, D. Kornbluh, I. Ladimer, D. Lennon, R. Pochter Lowe, S. Marquez, J. O'Brien, D. Padernacht, K. Pesce, A. Piscitelli, R. Press, G. Santiago, G. Singleton, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, H. Young, M. Zegarra-Soja

Opposed –

J. M. Reyes, L. Parker

Abstentions –

R. Fanuzzi, P. Friedman, M. Khury, D. McCord, D. Toledo

M. Wolpoff presented a resolution from the Land Use Committee concerning the Selfhelp development at 6469 Broadway. During presentation of the resolution P. Ellis reported on the Selfhelp Working

Group meeting held with Selfhelp representatives on October 16th. He advised that the meeting ended with additional requests for information. Also reports are awaited from the City Planning Commission, and Department of Buildings in response to letters sent by him containing questions and relating to zoning, allowable FAR, community facility bonus, building requirements, parking spaces, lift parking, etc. Additionally, Selfhelp will return to Land Use in November.

Discussion ensued, amendments were made and accepted. The following amended resolution was presented:

IV. Whereas, at the Land Use meeting held September 15, 2014 a Selfhelp committee working group consisting of community board and community members, was formed in order to resolve a myriad of questions and issues raised by the community to the developer;

Whereas, the Selfhelp Committee sent letters on September 29th to both the NYC Department of Buildings and the City Planning Commission asking for clarification on the application of the zoning resolution in terms of allowable FAR, impact of commercial space, lift parking, and other issues relating to the size and density of the project;

Whereas, the first Selfhelp Committee meeting with the developer took place on October 9, 2014, and additional information was requested and mutually agreed upon and Selfhelp is not scheduled to return to the Land Use Committee until November;

Whereas, the brownfield remediation at the former gas station site has been completed under the auspice of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and upon receiving a Certificate of Completion, construction may commence immediately;

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that Community Board No. 8 Bronx requests a moratorium be placed on construction until such time that the Selfhelp working group receives responses from the developer, from the Departments of Buildings and City Planning Commission, and the developer, Selfhelp, returns to the Community Board 8 Land Use Committee.

Vote: 35 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention

In Favor –

S. Alexander, S. Balicer, B. Bender, A. P. Creaney, L. Daub, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, A. G. Feldmeier, , M. Galvin, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, M. Heller, M. Khury, D. Kornbluh, I. Ladimer, D. Lennon, R. Pochter Lowe, S. Marquez, D. McCord, J. O'Brien, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, A. Piscitelli, R. Press, J. M. Reyes, G. Santiago, G. Singleton, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, D. Toledo, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, H. Young, M. Zegarra-Soja

Abstention –

P. Friedman

- E. Law, Rules, & Ethics – M. Wolpoff
1. Certain issues in the Board's Bylaws are no longer accurate with work of Board. The Committee will be looking at the Bylaws to recommend changes.
 2. I. Ladimer urged review of Ethics Manual and to provide recommendations and send to Board.
 3. The Committee will meet on October 23rd.
- F. Libraries & Cultural Affairs – M. Goodman
1. Attention is being given to cultural affairs.
 2. No meeting October due to holiday.
- G. Parks & Recreation – B. Bender
1. Committee met September and minutes were circulated.
 2. Committee will meet October 22nd, at Riverdale Temple, at 7:00 PM.
 3. The Special Committee on the Hudson River Greenway has three members, P. Friedman will Chair. The Committee will meet on October 30th, at Riverdale Mental Health Association, at 7:30 PM.
 4. Van Cortlandt Park Ice Rink will not be in operation this winter. B. Bender attended a meeting at Councilman Cohen's office. A possible comeback is being looked into.
- H. Public Safety – A. G. Feldmeier
1. Nuisance complaints are being raised again about Manhattan College students.
 2. Applicants for State Liquor Authority licenses did not attend the October Public Safety Committee meeting.
 3. House break-ins are being reported. The Chief of Detectives will attend meeting.
 4. Hope to generate "FACT SHEET" regarding what to do/not to do if you find a burglar in your home.
- I. Traffic & Transportation – M. Heller
1. Discussed the MOVE NY plan for bridges and tunnels.
 2. The Committee's next meeting will be held on October 21st, at Manhattan College, Engineering Building, at 7:30 PM. Representatives from DOT, and Con Ed will attend. Will request plan for street restoration.
 3. Committee will hold a "Transit Authority" night in November.
- J. Youth – L. Parker
1. The Committee met September 24th, and was engaged for the first time with youth attendance. The committee listened to their ideas. This practice will continue.
 2. The next meeting will be held at In-Tech Academy, October 22nd, at 4:00 PM to attract youth attendance.
- K. Aging – K. Pesce

1. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on October 21st at Hudson Pointe at Riverdale for Nursing and Rehab, at 3:30 PM.

L. Budget – M. Zegarra-Soja

Thanked Board for electing her as Budget Chair. She hopes to do a good job.

M. Economic Development – S. Villaverde

1. The Committee is discussing issues re BID Broadway lighting project; NYC Merchants forums; and Sanitation ticketing of merchants will be addressed.
2. No November meeting due to Election Day.

N. Education – S. Alexander

1. Refer to September minutes. Esther Nelson of Granny Press was guest speaker at meeting. She is dedicated to the development of children's early childhood learning through creative experiences. She now does dance. Ms. Nelson showed a video recorded at Marble Hill Nursery School with four year olds that demonstrated her program.
2. The Committee will hold its next meeting on October 28th, at the Board Office, at 7:30 PM.

13. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes of September 10, 2014

- B. Fanuzzi stated that he had amended the June Board meeting minutes to reflect his appreciation bestowed upon Maria Khury for her service as Vice Chair.
- M. Khury corrected the spelling of "Estrellita" Poblanita in the Public Safety resolution.
- J. Reyes asked that her question to Chairman Padernacht about whether or not he was setting limits on community committee membership be added along with Chairman's response. Chairman then stated in his answer that there was no minimum and no maximum, that membership is discretionary between committee chair, and board chair.

The amended minutes were approved by a vote of 34 in favor, 0 opposed, and 2 abstentions: B. Fanuzzi, D. Lennon.

Meeting adjourned 9:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,

Patricia Manning
Community Associate

Attachment: FY 2016 Capital & Expense Budget Priorities