

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
HELD ON JANUARY 14, 2014 AT
SCHERVIER NURSING CARE CENTER, 2975 INDEPENDENCE AVENUE**

PRESENT: S. Alexander, S. Balicer, B. Bender, L. Daub, M. Donato, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, A.G. Feldmeier, B. Fettman, A. Fella, P. Friedman, S. Froot, M. Galvin, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, M. Heller, M. Khury, D. Kornbluh, I. Ladimer, M. Marquez, C. G. Moerdler, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, J. M. Pilsner, R. Pochter Lowe, R. Press, J. Rather, X. Sanchez, G. Santiago, G. Singleton, I. W. Stone, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, H. Young, M. Zegarra-Soja

ABSENT: B. Contant, A. P. Creaney, S. Catechis, D. Kirksey-Floyd, D. Lennon, T. Lim, A. Moore, P. Mullen, A. Piscitelli, J. Reyes, P. Reyes, L. Spalter, A. A. Spett

GUESTS: J. Dinowitz – Assemblyman
A. Cohen – Councilman
Y. Rodriguez - Councilman
M. Blaustein – rep. State Senator Jeffrey Klein
J. DeSio – rep. Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.
D. Greenblatt – rep. Congressman Eliot Engel
E. Hoepelman – Office of Councilman Ydanis Rodriguez
A. Sandler – Office of Councilman Andrew Cohen
T. Edwards – Office of Councilman Ydanis Rodriguez
D.I. P. Rasa – NYPD, 50th Police Precinct
P.O. S. Cordero – NYPD, 50th Police Precinct
D. Burke – Save Riverdale Park
K. Fraser – Citizens Committee for New York City
T. Giallorenzi
J. T. Goiez – LSSNY
M. Gonzalez – Kingsbridge Library
K. Green
J. Grossman
Dr. S. Klingsberg – Riverdale Garden Club
S. Jeselsohn – Along the Hudson
B. Klein – Riverdale Coalition
P. Moerdler

Chairman Fanuzzi called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM.

1. Gallery Session

- A. Deidre Burke, Save Riverdale Park, spoke in opposition to NYMTC and FHVG proposed building of a regional highway for bicycles along Palisade Avenue that would result in significant destruction of Riverdale Park with regard to trees, vegetation, grade and habitat. The area is designated “Forever Wild” and is part of the Special Natural Area District. She referred to the Board’s 197-a plan that calls for passive, pedestrian use of Riverdale Park and no bicycle traffic to protect the sensitive environmental resources

found in the Park. She further asked Community Board 8 to oppose any plan that contains a bicycle route through Riverdale Park.

Chairman Fanuzzi referred Ms. Burke to the Parks and Recreation Committee.

- B. Sura Jeselsohn, Along the Hudson Home Owners, informed of her discovery of groups and organizations in NYMTC's Greenlink report listed incorrectly as members of the Technical Advisory group, including the Lower Hudson Valley group of which she is belongs.
- C. Kyle Fraser, Citizens Committee for NYC, announced the application deadline for Neighborhood Grants is January 27, 2014. Materials were left on the table.

Chairman Fanuzzi advised that the information had been sent to the Committees.

- D. Dr. Gary Klingsberg, spoke on behalf of the River Terrace Garden Club (RTGC), an organization of several dozen members at River Terrace co-op, 2621 Palisade Avenue. He stated that the current NYMTC Hudson River Greenway plan has no regard for trees, character of the neighborhood, property, safety comfort of walkers and riders, waterfront access, or cost. Dr. Klingsberg requested that Community Board 8 reject the NYMTC plan and oppose the "concrete sidewalk." He provided plan recommendations drafted by RTGC: support continued use of the existing Broadway Bridge to Van Cortlandt Park route; support the development of shoreline access via the existing access at Riverdale Metro-North station as far south as the Spuyten Duyvil Creek; improvement of the right of way along with appropriate security fencing; support the Hudson River shoreline route via the Amtrak bridge; opposition to the Henry Hudson Bridge routing, both over the bridge with its construction as well as through the Spuyten Duyvil neighborhood.

- 2. Approval of Minutes of regular Board Meeting held on December 10, 2013

The minutes were approved unanimously.

- 3. Discussion of Executive Committee meeting minutes of January 9, 2014

Chairman Fanuzzi stated the new policy concerning Executive Committee minutes. Any amendments and adoption of the minutes will be done only at Executive Committee meetings. However discussions will continue as usual at the Board meeting.

The minutes were discussed, and members of the Executive Committee expressed intention to amend committee minutes at the February meeting.

- 4. Chairman welcomed and invited Deputy Inspector Rasa to address the Board.

Deputy Inspector Rasa provided end of year crime statistics: murder 2, rape 2, robbery 150, felony assault 149, burglary 154, grand larceny 415, and grand larceny auto 87. Total crimes were 959. Major index crime was down 4%; transit down 12 vs 14; NYCHA up 49 vs 40. Shootings: 11 incidents. 50th Precinct arrests were over 2,000. Traffic Tickets were 19,000. He warned about MoneyPak gift card scams.

- 5. Chairman welcomed and invited Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz to address the Board.

Assemblyman Dinowitz discussed the budget and programs outlined in the Governor's recent State of State Address. The State's budget surplus is \$2 billion. The Governor is

proposing cutting taxes, and the Mayor proposes increasing taxes on income over \$500,000 to fund pre-kindergarten. The Governor proposes universal pre-kindergarten for State, and will propose bond issuance of \$2 billion for educational purposes. Additionally, a "property tax" credit for renters is proposed. Assemblyman Dinowitz is in full support of the renaming of PS 7 to honor the memory of Milton Fein, who had served as principal there for almost 30 years and had attended the same school as a youngster. Mr. Fein was also the longest serving principal in the City. He asked that Community Board 8 bring a resolution in support of the renaming. With regard to the proposal on Montefiore's facility, it is hoped that they will return with new ideas that will be acceptable to the community at large.

The Assemblyman was asked about the status of LG Tower. Bob Bender informed that one lawsuit is still in court. Boycotting LG products was discussed. C. Moerdler offered to draft a resolution on the matter for presentation at the next Executive Committee and Board meetings. Chairman Fanuzzi supported.

6. Chairman welcomed and invited Councilman Ydanis Rodriguez to address the Board.

Councilman Rodriguez reminded the Board of his commitment to the entire district of the Board, and noted that his district lines on the west side are by the bicycle path along the Hudson River.

Chairman thanked the Councilman for his strong support of the district. M. Khury inquired about the camera operation in NYCHA buildings. The Councilman advised that operation is underway.

7. Chairman welcomed and invited Councilman Andrew Cohen to address the Board.

Councilman Cohen thanked all those who braved the inclement weather to attend his Council's Swearing In Ceremony. His temporary office is at the same location of former Councilman Koppell, 3636 Waldo Avenue. He will be working with his colleague Councilman Rodriguez.

8. Report from the office of Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. – J. DeSio

- Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. was joined by elected officials as well as business and community leaders for his inauguration ceremony and the official kick off to Bronx County's year-round centennial celebration. The ceremony featured the swearing-in of the Borough President and the entire Bronx City Council delegation, a historical nod to the first swearing in that took place when Bronx County was created in 1914. During the ceremony, Borough President Diaz and the Bronx Chamber of Commerce also unveiled a commemorative plaque celebrating the centennial. In addition, the Empire State Building was lit in the colors of the Bronx flag to honor the 100th anniversary celebration of the creation of Bronx County.
- Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. invites Bronx residents to make a difference in their community by joining their local Community Board. The Office of The Bronx Borough President will be accepting applications for all 12 Community Boards from city residents who reside, work or have professional or other significant interests in the Bronx. Applications are available at the Borough President's Community Board office at (718) 590-3914 or at your local community board office. Interested applicants may also get the application on line at bronxboropres.nyc.gov. The deadline for submission of applications for the next round of appointments is February 7, 2014. In addition, all

community board members who are up for reappointment should have received their application in the mail. These applications are also due on February 7, 2014.

- NYCEDC announces Hunts Point Terminal produce market commits to stay in the Bronx until at least 2021. The seven year extension will keep one of the world's largest wholesale produce markets and approximately 3,000 jobs in the Bronx.
- Borough President Diaz, Jr. has just learned that Bronx General Post Office has been placed for sale. The Borough President is opposed to this action.
- Upcoming Events: Martin Luther King Tribute, Monday January 20, 2014, at Trinity Baptist Church, at 10:00 AM, 808 East 224th Street.

9. Chairman thanked Carlos Beato, Chief Executive Officer of Schervier Bon Secour, for graciously hosting the Board meeting. Chairman invited Mr. Beato to address the Board.

Mr. Beato welcomed the Board and offered space for committee meetings as well. He discussed their "Healthy Communities" initiatives stemming from support of community youth farmers markets, Schervier's on-premises community garden, and more. Additionally he spoke about the services administered at Schervier. For more information on any of the above, contact Laura Amerman at 718-554-8801.

10. Chairman's Report

- With regard to Croton Filtration issues, refer to Executive Committee minutes. The completion date for the plant has been extended to year 2015. Chairman will advocate for public access to areas not impacted by construction and for funding of the pedestrian bridge that would span over the Major Deegan to Van Cortlandt Park.
- Chairman thanked the elected officials for their input at Croton Filtration Plant Monitoring Committee meetings.
- Chairman reiterated that Board membership applications are due by February 7th.

11. Treasurer's report – P. Friedman

P. Friedman reported meeting with the District Manager on January 3rd to discuss the budget report and all is in order. The report has been distributed and it is on target for the current fiscal year.

12. District Manager's Report – N. Stent

- Thanked Shervier Bon Secour for their six (6) year commitment as a community partner in sponsoring the Marble Hill Youthmarket.
- The January DSC was held and notable information included an update on the Con Ed Storm System Fortification in CB8 and Oil to Gas conversions are continuing. Please see the report in the Executive Minutes
- There has been a great concern over the past few months about the status of the after school program at Marble Hill Community Center run by the Children's' Arts & Science program. The program was slated to close by January 1st with 120 children ages 5 to 12 years old affected. Fortunately the good news is that the center will be taken over by the DYCD Cornerstone Program, a year round program for adults and young people. It will be run by the Mosholu Montefiore Community Center. Mosholu will have several

programs for elementary students, middle school and HS students as well as an adult program.

12. Committee Reports

A. Public Safety – A. G. Feldmeier

1. There was no Committee meeting in December.
2. The Committee is working on hosting a training session for “Responsible Beverage Serving.” The date will probably be for some time in February.

B. Traffic and Transportation – D. Padernacht

1. The next Committee meeting will be held on January 21st, at the Board Office, at 7:30 PM.
2. Traffic and Transportation, and Parks and Recreation Committees will meet jointly in February on the matter of the Hudson River Greenway.
3. Report pot holes to 311.

C. Youth – L. Parker

1. The next Committee meeting will be held on January 22nd, at Riverdale Neighborhood House, at 1:00 PM. Discussion will include the “Come Back Kid” guidelines and award and Marble Hill Youth Market SAPO application.
2. Over 100 participants have signed up for this year’s Annual Youth Ice Skating event being held on February 13th at Van Cortlandt Park Ice Rink.

D. Aging – K. Pesce

1. A speaker from RAIN will attend the next meeting on January 21st. The meeting will be held at the Methodist Church Home, at 3:30 PM.
2. The minutes have been posted.

E. Budget

No report.

F. Economic Development – S. Villaverde

1. Presented the following two resolutions passed by the Committee on January 7, 2014:

RE: SAPO JOHNSON AVENUE MERCHANT FAIR 2014 APPLICATION

WHEREAS, the Kingsbridge Riverdale Van Cortlandt Development Corporation (KRVCDC), on behalf of the Johnson Avenue Merchants, presented a proposal for the Johnson Avenue Merchant Fair to be held on Johnson Avenue between West 235th and 236th Streets proposed for September 21, 2014; and

WHEREAS, this is a recurring event that has met with extensive success and community support in the past; and

WHEREAS, Bronx Community Board 8 supports the SAPO Merchant Fair application and such support may include, without limitation, co-sponsoring of the event if appropriate; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that conditioned upon the understanding that no alcoholic beverages be sold, Bronx Community Board No. 8 supports the Johnson Avenue Merchant Fair as submitted and approves the relevant pending 2014 SAPO application.

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

S. Alexander, S. Balicer, B. Bender, L. Daub, M. Donato, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, A.G. Feldmeier, B. Fettman, A. Fella, S. Froot, M. Galvin, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, M. Heller, M. Khury, D. Kornbluh, I. Ladimer, M. Marquez, C. G. Moerdler, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, J. M. Pilsner, R. Pochter Lowe, R. Press, J. Rather, X. Sanchez, G. Santiago, G. Singleton, I. W. Stone, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, H. Young, M. Zegarra-Soja

Abstention: P. Friedman

RE: SAPO SOUTH RIVERDALE MERCHANT FAIR 2014 APPLICATION

WHEREAS, Mr. Mario Curanaj, on behalf of the South Riverdale Merchants Association, presented a proposal for the South Riverdale Avenue Merchant Fair to be held on May 4, 2014 located at Riverdale Avenue between West 236th and 238th Streets; and

WHEREAS, this is a recurring event that has met with extensive success and community support in the past; and

WHEREAS, Bronx Community Board No. 8 supports the SAPO Merchant Fair application and such support may include, without limitation, co-sponsoring event if appropriate; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that conditioned upon the understanding that no alcoholic beverages be sold, Bronx Community Board No. 8 supports South Riverdale Avenue Merchant Fair as submitted and approves the relevant pending 2014 SAPO application.

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

S. Alexander, S. Balicer, B. Bender, L. Daub, M. Donato, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, A.G. Feldmeier, B. Fettman, A. Fella, S. Froot, M. Galvin, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, M. Heller, M. Khury, D. Kornbluh, I. Ladimer, M. Marquez, C. G. Moerdler, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, J. M. Pilsner, R. Pochter Lowe, R. Press, J. Rather, X. Sanchez, G. Santiago, G. Singleton, I. W. Stone, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, H. Young, M. Zegarra-Soja

Abstention: P. Friedman

G. Education - S. Alexander

Marvin Shelton, President, Community Education Council, District 10, will be guest speaker at the next Committee meeting on January 28th, at the Board Office, at 7:30 PM. Attendance is urged out of respect to the speaker.

H. Environment and Sanitation – S. Marquez

The next meeting will be held on January 15th, at the Board Office, at 7:00 PM.

I. Health, Hospitals and Social Services – S. Froot

1. The next meeting will be held on January 30th, at Kingsbridge Heights Community Center, at 7:30 PM.
2. No February meeting.
3. Refer to minutes and note presentation by J. Moerdler regarding Riverdale Hatzalah, Volunteer Ambulance Service & EMT Corps.
4. New Legislation was passed by the City Council regarding EMS response time for measuring responses to scene.

J. Housing – S. Balicer

1. There was no December meeting.
2. Thanked all those who have been involved with the forum on Mitchell Lama's new policies, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, M. Khury, and N. Stent. The special forum will be held on January 27th, at Tibbett Towers, at 7:30 PM. There will be discussion on status of changes with HPD's Assistant Commissioner Julie Walpert.

K. Land Use – C. Moerdler

1. At the January 6, 2014 meeting, Landmarks Preservation Commission presented on Fieldston Historic District's Rules/Master Plan. LPC will vote on the draft January 22nd. The Board will vote following.
2. C. Moerdler advised of the FOIL he conducted on Montefiore regarding their claim of "Need for Services" in Kingsbridge. He provided the data to S. Froot, Chair of Health, Hospitals & Social Services Committee for review.
3. Advised that Metro-North services are in planning for the easterly corridor of the Bronx. He gave much credit to former Bronx Borough President Freddie Ferrer, now Chairman of MTA. He acknowledged the idea was conceived while he served as Borough President. Chairman Ferrer has allocated \$43 million for design of stations toward this feat.
4. Provided update on the Self Help project. They are without a "special needs" component for the project.

L. Law Rules and Ethics – R. Ginty

1. Met in December. Nothing more to add to minutes.
2. The next meeting is being held on January 23rd, at Riverdale Mental Health,

at 7:00 PM.

M. Libraries and Cultural Affairs – M. Goodman

1. Refer to minutes.
2. Discussed the many new programs and resources that are now available at libraries; and related that he was most delighted to discover that a historical volume on the Spuyten Duyvil Library was actually created by his late wife Phyllis Goodman.
3. Arranging for Committee to visit each library within the Community Board's district.

N. Parks and Recreation – B. Bender

The committee will meet on January 22nd, at Riverdale Mental Health Association, at 7:00 PM. Major agenda item is the Van Cortlandt Pedestrian Bridge.

Meeting adjourned 9:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Manning
Community Associate

Reviewed by,

Joyce Pilsner
Secretary