

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD MEETING  
HELD ON JULY 10, 2007 AT THE RIVERDALE YM/YWHA  
5625 ARLINGTON AVENUE**

**PRESENT:** R. Bender, A. P. Cassino, A. P. Creaney, W. Dolny, T. Durham,  
A. Fana, R. Fanuzzi, T. Feerick, B. Feinberg, A. G. Feldmeier, B. Fettman,  
P. Friedman, T. Giallorenzi, M. Khury, G. O. Koppell, J. Kreppel,  
V. Gray Lewis, D. McShane, C. G. Moerdler, K. O'Brien, K. Pesce,  
J. M. Pilsner, C. Prentice, J. M. Reyes, T. Rubinstein, S. Scheinbach,  
L. Spalter, B. Trebach, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

**ABSENT:** R. Abbott, D. Bowden, E. A. Dennison, Rev. N. Dixon, J. Giegerich,  
J. Goris, L. Grossman, J. Higgins, M. Katzenstein, I. Ladimer, R. Moll,  
J. O'Reilly, J. Plaza, N. Stent, I. W. Stone, E. Tossas Tucker, L. Vazquez

**STAFF:** T. Lucania – rep. Borough President Adolfo Carrion  
M. Botnick – Mayor's Office, CAU  
J. Sewell – Councilman G. Oliver Koppell's Ofc.  
J. Gordon – Councilman G. Oliver Koppell's Ofc.  
R. Martos – rep. Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz  
J. Sonett – rep. State Senator Eric Schneiderman  
S. Alexander – Clerical Associate, CB8  
D. Bay – Community Associate, CB 8  
P. Manning – Community Associate, CB 8

**GUESTS:** R. Murray – NYPL, Riverdale Branch  
M. Villani -York – Riverdale Press  
Sister E. McGrory – Sisters of Charity  
P. Moerdler  
J. O'Brien  
C. Giove – Riverdale Review  
Det. L. Rodriguez – 50<sup>th</sup> Pct.

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

1. Gallery Session

Rosemary Murray, Branch Manager, Riverdale Library, reported on the extra funding received allowing all branches to open six days a week. New Bronx schedules are available.

2. Chairman Cassino welcomed Thomas Lucania, representing Borough President Adolfo Carrion; Judy Sonett, representing State Senator Eric Schneiderman; Randi Martos, representing Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz; Jamin Sewell and Joseph Gordon, Office of Councilman G. Oliver Koppell; Mark Botnick, Mayor's Office, CAU; Detective Luis Rodriguez, 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct; Rosemary Murray, Riverdale Branch Library; Marie Villani York, Riverdale Press; and Candice Giove, Riverdale Review.

3. Chairman invited Councilman Koppell to address the Board.

Councilman Koppell elaborated on the good budget passed.

Bids are out for the new Kingsbridge Library. Hope for ground breaking early fall.

Thanked Chairman Cassino for his help with the design change of the guide rails to be installed along Henry Hudson Parkway.

4. Chairman invited Det. Rodriguez, 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct, to address the Board.

Det. Rodriguez reported that open hydrants are a problem; crime is down; 100 summonses were issued in Van Cortlandt Park for alcohol; Ft. Independence Park is being monitored; graffiti arrests are up; Explorers Club in conjunction with the Mayor's Office cleaned 55 sites of graffiti. Councilman Koppel advised that his Office has a grant for graffiti removal and can be contacted for such requests.

National Night Out will be held on August 7<sup>th</sup>.

Det. Rodriguez issued his cell phone number for anyone wishing to contact him: 646-246-7687.

5. Chairman's Report

- Chairman advised that he had met with John Peruggia, Chief of EMS, rejection of site at 230<sup>th</sup> Street was discussed. In moving forward, Chief Peruggia will attend a joint committee meeting with Public Safety, Health, & Aging.

6. Resolutions –

A. Environment & Sanitation – S. Scheinbach

Presented the following resolution to request an investigation regarding cost overruns for construction of the Croton Water Filtration Plant:

*WHEREAS*, the projected cost for construction of the Croton Water Filtration Plant has more than doubled since the Department of Environmental Protection's original cost estimate; and

*WHEREAS*, these costs will be borne by residents of New York City through higher water rates; and

*WHEREAS*, lower cost was the primary reason cited by the agency for placing the Filtration Plant in Van Cortlandt Park rather than Westchester County; and

*WHEREAS*, to date, no independent City agency has reviewed the circumstances leading to the huge increase in the cost of this project;

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED*, that Community Board No. 8 calls upon the Council of the City of New York and the Public Advocate to investigate the circumstances surrounding the massive cost overruns for construction of the Croton Water Filtration Plant.

Vote: 29 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions

In Favor –

R. Bender, A. P. Cassino, A. P. Creaney, W. Dolny, T. Durham,  
A. Fana, R. Fanuzzi, T. Feerick, B. Feinberg, A. G. Feldmeier, B. Fettman,  
P. Friedman, M. Khury, G. O. Koppell, J. Kreppel,  
V. Gray-Lewis, D. McShane, C. G. Moerdler, K. O'Brien, K. Pesce,  
J. M. Pilsner, C. Prentice, J. M. Reyes, T. Rubinstein, S. Scheinbach,  
L. Spalter, B. Trebach, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

B. Traffic & Transportation – B. Trebach

Presented the following resolution supporting DOT's recommendation to convert West 236<sup>th</sup> Street to one-way eastbound:

*WHEREAS*, two-way traffic in front of Public School 24 (660 West 236<sup>th</sup> Street) poses a hazard to local schoolchildren, and resulted in a serious accident in April 2007; and

*WHEREAS*, the principal of P.S. 24 requested that the New York City Department of Transportation investigate the feasibility of converting West 236<sup>th</sup> Street between Hudson Manor Terrace and Independence Avenue to one-way eastbound operation from two-way operation; and

*WHEREAS*, a field investigation by the Department of Transportation determined that converting the P.S. 24 portion of West 236<sup>th</sup> Street to one-way eastbound operation would expedite safer arrivals and departures for children attending the school; and

*WHEREAS*, the Department of Transportation consequently recommends that the P.S. 24 portion of West 236<sup>th</sup> Street be converted to one-way eastbound operation; therefore

*BE IT RESOLVED*, that Community Board No. 8, Bronx, supports the Department of Transportation's recommendation that West 236<sup>th</sup> Street be converted to one-way eastbound operation between Hudson Manor Terrace and Independence Avenue; and urges that such change be made before the academic year 2007-2008 begins on September 4, 2007.

Vote: 29 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions

In Favor -

R. Bender, A. P. Cassino, A. P. Creaney, W. Dolny, T. Durham, A. Fana, R. Fanuzzi, T. Feerick, B. Feinberg, A. G. Feldmeier, B. Fettman, P. Friedman, M. Khury, G. O. Koppell, J. Kreppel, V. Gray-Lewis, D. McShane, C. G. Moerdler, K. O'Brien, K. Pesce, J. M. Pilsner, C. Prentice, J. M. Reyes, T. Rubinstein, S. Scheinbach, L. Spalter, B. Trebach, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

C. Land Use – C. Moerdler

Presented the following resolution to deny the BSA application regarding BSA CALENDAR NO 160 TO 162-07 BZ - 3880-3884 CANNON PLACE BRONX NEW YORK :

WHEREAS :

1. The Applicant acknowledged at the public hearing that substantially all of work performed and all the expenditures relied upon as the basis for its hardship claim were incurred after September 28, 2004, the date upon which the rezoning became effective.
2. The Applicant acknowledged actual knowledge of the rezoning prior to commencement of such work.
3. The claim of hardship is predicated on irregularity of the lot and some rock, conditions frequently, if not normally, found in the proximate area of the site.
4. The testimony conclusively revealed that such hardship as may be claimed to exist was self-created and that the nature and character of the community would be adversely impacted (as also evidenced by the Zoning change in 2004 and the hearings preceding it).
5. The applicant advanced not a single cogent reason justifying grant of the variance, either in law or in equity, and failed to affirmatively establish the findings required by Section 72-21 of the Zoning Resolution.
6. The Land Use Committee of Community Board 8 unanimously concluded, after public hearing, that the application should be denied.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY COMMUNITY BOARD NO 8, BRONX COUNTY, THAT THE APPLICATION SHOULD BE DENIED.

Vote: 29 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions

In Favor –

R. Bender, A. P. Cassino, A. P. Creaney, W. Dolny, T. Durham, A. Fana, R. Fanuzzi, T. Feerick, B. Feinberg, A. G. Feldmeier, B. Fettman, P. Friedman, M. Khury, G. O. Koppell, J. Kreppel, V. Gray-Lewis, D. McShane, C. G. Moerdler, K. O'Brien, K. Pesce, J. M. Pilsner, C. Prentice, J. M. Reyes, T. Rubinstein, S. Scheinbach, L. Spalter, B. Trebach, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

C. Moerdler announced that submissions of recommendations for LPC's Fieldston Historic District Rules are needed.

7. District Manager's Search Committee Report –

Chairman Cassino provided background, and reviewed the procedure and timeline related to the Search for the District Manager. He advised that 33 credible applications were received of which eight were selected for interviews, and seven appeared before the Committee, the eighth candidate was unable to appear due to surgery.

Prior to Chairman Cassino announcing the name of the Committee's recommendation, M. Wolpoff made a motion calling for a Closed Executive Session in order to discuss the candidate in privacy, affording him or her protection. The motion passed unanimously. Upon resuming the open meeting, Chairman Cassino announced that Nicole Stent, Board Member and Chair of Parks and Recreation had been selected by the Search Committee as the new District Manager.

Chairman distributed copies of N. Stent's bio to the Board.

Chairman called for a vote on the candidate. The vote was 29 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

In Favor –

R. Bender, A. P. Cassino, A. P. Creaney, W. Dolny, T. Durham, A. Fana, R. Fanuzzi, T. Feerick, B. Feinberg, A. G. Feldmeier, B. Fettman, P. Friedman, M. Khury, G. O. Koppell, J. Kreppel, V. Gray-Lewis, D. McShane, C. G. Moerdler, K. O'Brien, K. Pesce, J. M. Pilsner, C. Prentice, J. M. Reyes, T. Rubinstein, S. Scheinbach, L. Spalter, B. Trebach, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

Chairman advised that Nicole Stent would join the Board Office August/September.

Chairman Cassino thanked the members of the Search Committee. He commended Councilman Koppell and Borough President Carrion for their support of the work of the Committee.

J. Pilsner complimented Chairman Cassino for his valued work on the Committee.

Meeting adjourned 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Manning  
Community Associate

