

**COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8 BRONX**

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
HELD ON JANUARY 8, 2008 AT  
THE RIVERDALE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
4763 HENRY HUDSON PARKWAY WEST**

**PRESENT:** R. Abbott, R. Bender, D. Bowden, A. P. Cassino, A. P. Creaney, Rev. N. Dixon, W. S. Dolny, T. Durham, A. Fana, R. Fanuzzi, T. Feerick, B. Feinberg, A. G. Feldmeier, B. Fettman, P. Friedman, T. Giallorenzi, J. Goris, M. Khury, G. O. Koppell, J. Kreppel, I. Ladimer, D. McShane, R. Moll, K. O'Brien, K. Pesce, J. M. Pilsner, C. Prentice, J. M. Reyes, T. Rubinstein, S. Scheinbach, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, B. Trebach, E. Tossas Tucker, L. Vazquez, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

**ABSENT:** J. Giegerich, J. Higgins, M. Katzenstein, V. Gray-Lewis, C. G. Moerdler, J. O'Reilly, J. Plaza

**STAFF:** N. Stent – District Manager, CB 8  
S. Alexander – Clerical Assistant, CB 8  
D. Bay – Community Associate, CB 8  
P. Manning – Community Associate, CB 8

**GUESTS:** J. Dinowitz – Assemblyman  
V. Abraham  
S. Barker - NYPL  
H. Barrett – Memorial Grove  
O. Bing – CB 12, Manhattan  
R. Bisberg – Lake Rock Capital  
R. Brown – NY Yankees Community Council  
A. Cohen  
E. Connolly – Department of Parks & Recreation  
N. Danyluk – Bronx Department of City Planning  
J. DeSio – Riverdale Review  
A. Dubin – rep. Councilman G. Oliver Koppell  
M. Grossman – Riverdale Press  
K. Gilson – Riverdale Community Center  
A. Gray – Riverdale Community Center  
K. Gray – Riverdale Community Center  
R. Gray  
C. Harvey – rep. State Senator Eric Schneiderman  
S. Mahoney – KHCC Teen Center  
A. Marrero  
R. Marrero  
R. McAllan – EMS

J. Martin – rep. State Senator Jeffrey Klein  
H. Morik – CB 12, Manhattan  
R. Martos – rep. Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz  
R. Press – rep. State Senator Efrain Gonzalez  
D. Prill  
K. Prill  
A. Pena  
M. Ramos – Police Officer, Community Affairs, 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct  
H. Ring  
D. Shea – Deputy Inspector, 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct  
M. Shelton – CDEC No. 10  
P. Shomo – TA President, Marble Hill Houses  
D. Tannen –  
A. Toledo – rep. Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrión, Jr.  
J. Walmsley – Chief, CB 8 CERT  
A. Wall  
N. Williams

Chairman Cassino convened the meeting at 7:43 P.M.

1. Presentation of NY Yankees Youth Leadership Awards

Chairman extended a very special welcome to Dr. Roscoe Brown, Chairman of the NY Yankees Community Council who would be the presenter of the NY Yankees Leadership Awards. Chairman Cassino noted the numerous accomplishments and dedicated community service over the years of Dr. Brown. He also noted that Dr. Brown had recently been bestowed the Congressional Medal by President George W. Bush for serving with the Tuskegee Airmen in World War II.

Dr. Brown spoke about the many various philanthropic initiatives developed by NY Yankees Community Council including awards to youth organizations and individual youths for outstanding personal achievements, leadership community and voluntary service. Over the past 14 years, awards have totaled more than \$300,000 thanks to the generosity of George Steinbrenner. Awards are given to youth in the 59 Community Boards. Five youth are selected from each Board area for their voluntary community service and demonstrated leadership ability. Each youth receives an award of \$500.00. Dr. Brown called upon the Community Board No. 8 Bronx five honorees for presentation of the Youth Leadership Awards.

Each honoree accepted the award and spoke about their involvement in community service in the community giving examples of volunteerism and leadership. They honorees are: Kelly Gray, nominated by Riverdale Community Center; Amanda Marrero, nominated by Riverdale Neighborhood House; Alixandra Pena, nominated by Kingsbridge Heights Community Center; Dylan Prill, nominated by the Riverdale YM/YWHA; and Ashley Wall, nominated by Marble Hill Community Center.

**Gallery Session –**

- A. Eileen Connolly, Department of Parks & Recreation, presented a synopsis of the proposal contained in PlaNYC for increasing urban forestation by one million trees thereby creating 2000 acres of new forest. The plan will allow block plantings of automatic tree replacements, and other than property owners will be able to make planting requests.
  - B. Robert Press, former Parent Association President of MS/HS 141, expressed support of the proposal for the expansion of the school. He suggested that the next Education Committee meeting of Community Board No. 8 be held at 141 in order to discuss and observe the impact of an expansion at the school.
  - C. Obie Bing, Board Member of Community Board 12, Manhattan, discussed Con Edison's M-29 project and the resolutions passed by Community Board 12 Manhattan regarding the need for plans for noise mitigation and traffic. Helen Morik, member of Community Board 12, also spoke on the topic of resolutions passed by the Board covering the following three points for compliance by Con Edison: 1) curb to curb repaving; 2) rodent abatement program; 3) utility rate reduction for businesses and residents within the project radius from Dyckman Street to West 220<sup>th</sup> Streets and from Harlem to the Hudson River. The resolutions were sent to the Public Service Commission for action.
  - D. Richard McAllan, retired EMS paramedic, provided an update on the status of the request for an EMS garage within the confines of Community Board No. 8 Bronx. Presently the nearest garage is located in Community Board 12 Bronx, five miles away. He urged Board 8 to reject utilization of that garage and continue to press for one within its boundaries; i.e., site at West 231<sup>st</sup> Street and Riverdale Avenue.
  - E. H. Barrett, advocate for the restoration of Memorial Grove in Van Cortlandt Park, addressed the Board, as he had done at the November Board meeting, on the matter of the Grove's state of disrepair. He reiterated that the Memorial's installation of 39 trees with plaques honoring WWII veterans had deteriorated with only 18 plaques remaining. He asked for assistance with obtaining funding for its restoration.
2. Approval of Regular Board Minutes of December 11, 2007  
The minutes were approved unanimously.
  3. Discussion of the Executive Board Committee Minutes of January 2, 2008  
The minutes were adopted as written.
  4. The Chairman welcomed Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz and his staff member Randi Martos; Councilman G. Oliver Koppell and his staff member Adam Dubin;

Andy Toledo, representing Borough President Adolfo Carrión, Jr.; Robert Press, representing State Senator Efrain Gonzalez; Jay Martin, representing State Senator Jeffrey Klein; Christina Harvey, representing State Senator Eric Schneiderman; Nestor Danyluk, Bronx Department of City Planning; Deputy Inspector Dermot Shea and Police Officer Migdalia Ramos, 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct; Eileen Connolly, Department of Parks & Recreation; Manny Grossman, Riverdale Press; and John DeSio, Riverdale Review.

5. The Chairman congratulated Commanding Officer Shea, 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct on his promotion to Deputy Inspector. Chairman invited the Deputy to address the Board.
  - A. Deputy Inspector Shea reported on an incident which occurred earlier during the day involving a police stop by the 52<sup>nd</sup> Precinct which escalated into the officer being dragged along Kingsbridge Road, and the perpetrator shot. The incident took place on the intersecting borders of Community Boards 7 and 8 at Kingsbridge Road and University Avenue. A full investigation is in process.
  - B. 2007 ended with crime statistics down. However, burglaries continue to be a problem with clusters on Godwin Terrace and on the east side of the Precinct's boundaries on Sedgwick, Webb and Claflin Avenues. Entry is usually by way of unlocked windows.
  - C. The footbridge in Van Cortlandt Park was burned. Fire Marshals are investigating. This is the second reported incident in one year.
  - D. Monitoring and surveillance of bodegas for beer sales to underage patrons is underway. The liquor store located adjacent to the 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct remains closed one year later after being shut down for marijuana drug dealing.
  - E. At the recommendation of the 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct, the office of the District Attorney has procured a GPS system for precinct use with car break-ins.
6. The Chairman invited Councilman G. O. Koppell to address the Board.
  - A. Councilman Koppell introduced Adam Dubin, a new staff member, who would be attending the Board meetings.
  - B. The Department of Transportation agreed to install a left turn signal at West 254<sup>th</sup> Street and Riverdale Avenue, which had been a long standing request.
  - C. The guide rail project along the Henry Hudson Parkway is proceeding slowly.
  - D. Any special Board budget requests should be brought to his attention.
  - E. The Council has defeated a proposal for water rate increases partly because of the implementation of measures that will enable collection of unpaid water bills.

- F. The Council will consider a bill authored by Councilman Koppell for tax benefits for green roofs.
  - G. While the Council is reviewing legislation for electronic recycling, Councilman Koppell announced that his office will serve as a drop-off location for those items every first Monday of every month.
  - H. The Councilman announced his sponsorship of a forum on Immigration on January 20<sup>th</sup>, at Bedford Park Senior Center; Pet Adoption Van on February 9<sup>th</sup>, and at Spuyten Duyvil Library.
  - I. Legislation was passed in the Council related to recycling plastic bags.
7. The Chairman invited Assemblyman Dinowitz to address the Board.
- A. Assemblyman Dinowitz congratulated the five youths on their NY Yankees Leadership Awards.
  - B. With respect to the tree proposal for PlaNYC, the Assemblyman advised that his office had already conducted a survey and has submitted a list of 200 locations for trees.
  - C. Thanked all for participating in the Food Drive.
  - D. Complimented Community Board No. 8 on its participation with the Croton Filtration Monitoring Committee's passing of the resolution regarding the filtration plant's cost overrun.
8. Chairman's Report
- Chairman Cassino referred to the report in the Executive Committee minutes regarding the re-instatement of 17 of 28 parking spaces on Netherland Avenue between Kappock and West 227<sup>th</sup> Street. This was in the vicinity of the reconstruction project for the Kappock Street underpass. The remaining spaces will be returned in February.
  - Chairman Cassino announced that the Board's Committee on Alternate Side Parking reform will hold its second meeting on January 31st, at the Riverdale Temple, at 7:30 PM.
9. Report from the Borough President's Office – A. Toledo
- Community Board membership applications are being accepted for all 12 Bronx Community Boards from residents who reside or have professional or other significant interests in the Bronx. Applications are available by calling

718-590-3914 or by going online at [bronxboroughpres.nyc.gov](http://bronxboroughpres.nyc.gov). Deadline for submission is February 1, 2008.

- The Bronx Borough President as a part of the Fiscal Year 2008 Capital Budget allocations for the Bronx, has allocated funds in the City's Capital budget for the following projects in Community District No. 8:
  - I.S. 368 – Computer Equipment (Teaching Matters) - \$45,000
  - Vinmont Ballfield – Reconstruction - \$250,000 (\$250,000 for FY 2009)
  - Kingsbridge Branch Library Construction – Additional Funds - \$600,000 (\$300,000 for FY 2009)
  - North Central Bronx Hospital – Ultrasound System - \$264,888

#### 10. Report from the Department of City Planning – N. Danyluk

It had been reported at the December meeting that the Mann residence, 4550 Livingston Avenue, would be coming before DCP after its review at Landmarks Preservation. At this time the applicant has not completed its "Notice of Restrictions" and therefore the Commission has not held its vote.

#### 11. Committee Reports

##### A. Traffic & Transportation – B. Trebach

1. Certain traffic issues were discussed at the last Committee meeting including the misuse of parking placards. The Mayor is now beginning a crack down on such misuse.
2. B. Trebach thanked N. Stent for following up on the status of the guard rail project. She was able to obtain information on the projected timeframe for completion which differs from the Committee's report in the December Board minutes. As it stands, the added delays on the project will take up to ten weeks before work resumes, and another three weeks to complete. In addition, the concrete rails along Henry Hudson parkway East above the Fire Department Engine building and below West 246<sup>th</sup> Street, will be moved to allow for two lanes of traffic.
3. The Committee will hold a joint meeting with Environment and Sanitation in early February.
4. Councilman Koppell commented that he will send a letter regarding the demand for additional parking spaces at the Riverdale Metro-North station. It has been noticed that since spaces were reduced at the Spuyten Duyvil station the Riverdale station fills up by 8:15 AM.

##### B. Youth – C. Prentice

The Committee will meet on January 31<sup>st</sup>, at the Board Office, at 1:00 PM.

C. Aging – K. Pesce

The Committee will meet on January 24<sup>th</sup>, at Riverdale Housing for the Elderly, at 3:30 PM.

D. Budget – K. O'Brien

1. No report.
2. Note was taken of Councilman Koppel's recommendation on the budget.

E. Education – D. Bowden

1. The minutes have been provided in the Board's package.
2. The Committee heard from two guest speakers at its meeting held in December: Ken Petriccone, new principal at PS/MS 37 and Professor Robert Feinerman, Chair of the Mathematics Department at Lehman College.
3. The proposal for MS/HS 141 was discussed.
4. There will be no meeting in January.
5. The next meeting may be held on February 27<sup>th</sup>, as a joint meeting with the Parks & Recreation Committee. Confirmation will follow. This meeting will discuss the proposal for MS/HS141.

F. Economic Development – J. Reyes

1. Distributed brochures on "Work-at-Home Schemes," and "How to be an Informed Consumer." Brochures are available for jobs that can be performed from home and on managing finances.
2. The proposal for the trolley service will cover the entire Community Board 8's area.
3. The next Committee meeting will be held on January 24<sup>th</sup>, at the Board office at 7:30 PM.

G. Environment & Sanitation – S. Scheinbach

1. Commissioner Lloyd attended the last meeting with the Croton Water Filtration Monitoring Committee at which a resolution was passed calling upon both City and State Comptrollers to investigate the plant's cost overrun. The Commissioner offered to provide reporting costs twice yearly

- before the vote was taken, but withdrew the offer following the passing vote.
2. NYS Senate and Assembly are considering bills to circumvent the loophole violation with the unattached A-frame signs.
  3. Residents who attended the ASP meeting held at the Amalgamated Houses were anxious for reform.

H. Health, Hospitals and Social Services –

P. Friedman reported in the absence of M. Katzenstein. The next meeting will be held on January 13<sup>th</sup>, at the Riverdale YM/YWHA. EMS will be discussed.

I. Housing – J. Kreppel

1. The Committee will meet on January 28<sup>th</sup>, Board Office, at 7:30 PM. Discussion will include Jericho's proposal for construction of housing for veterans at 2701 Kingsbridge Terrace.
2. A letter was received dated December 19<sup>th</sup> advising of demolition of 3880 Cannon Place within five days. To date no action has been taken. Another letter was received informing of the developer's intention to construct a "community facility" building. J. Kreppel will send a letter requesting clarification of use and plan for the property.

J. Law, Rules and Ethics – R. Moll

No report.

K. Libraries and Cultural Affairs – L. Vazquez

1. The Committee will be meeting jointly with Economic Development on January 24<sup>th</sup>, at the Board Office, at 7:30 PM.
2. The Riverdale Choral Society will conduct an open enrollment on January 16<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 PM, at Christ Church.

L. Parks and Recreation – B. Bender

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, Board Office, at 7:00 P.M. A project scope on the renovations of the Parade ground and stadium will be presented. Attendance is urged.

M. Public Safety – A. G. Feldmeier

No report. The next meeting will be held on February 21<sup>st</sup>.

Chairman Cassino thanked Riverdale Presbyterian Church for hosting the Board meeting.

Chairman urged the Board members to be vigilant with their attendance at meetings.

Miscellaneous –

B. Fanuzzi proposed a motion of acknowledgement and appreciation of work done in the Board's district by Joe Gordon, former staff member of Councilman G. O. Koppell.

The motion was supported by the full Board.

Meeting adjourned 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Manning  
Community Associate