

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
HELD ON NOVEMBER 12, 2008,
AT MANHATTANVILLE NURSING CARE CENTER, 311 WEST 231ST STREET**

PRESENT: R. Abbott, B. Bender, D. Bowden, A. P. Cassino, W. S. Dolny, T. Durham,
R. Fanuzzi, B. Fettman, P. Friedman, A. Goldman, M. Khury, B. Maybury,
D. McShane, C. G. Moerdler, R. Moll, K. Pesce, J. M. Pilsner, J. Plaza, C. Prentice,
J. Reyes, T. Rubinstein, S. Scheinbach, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, E. T. Tucker,
M. Wolpoff, H. Young

ABSENT: A. P. Creaney, A. Fana, T. Feerick, B. Feinberg, A. G. Feldmeier, T. Giallorenzi,
J. Goris, M. Katzenstein, G. O. Koppell, I. Ladimer, V. Gray-Lewis, K. O'Brien,
J. O'Reilly, B. Trebach

STAFF: N. Stent – District Manager, CB 8
D. Bay – Community Associate, CB 8
P. Manning – Community Associate, CB 8

GUESTS: J. Dinowitz – Assemblyman
R. Fedderman – rep Congressman Eliot Engel
C. Harvey – rep. State Senator Eric Schneiderman
R. Press – rep. State Senator Efrain Gonzalez
R. Martos – rep. Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz
A. Toledo – rep Borough President Adolfo Carrión, Jr.
A. Adolphus
S. Alexander
M. Alvarez
M. Beg
C. Berman
S. Brown
P. Cardona
A. Cohen
N. Danyluk – Department of City Planning
C. Giove
J. E. Gordon
B. Greif
R. Habert
J. Hester
N. Judd
D. Kappes
E. Kiehof
M. Linares
P. Moerdler
C. Onow
M. Perron
P.O. M. Ramos – 50th Pct
Det. L. Rodriguez – 50th Pct
P. Smyth
J. Sonett
T. Thu
M. Velder

Chairman McShane convened the meeting at 7:40 PM.

Gallery Session

- A. A. David Kappes, discussed the recent installation of cellular antennas in the community. He expressed concerns about health risks associated with possible exposure to radiation, because some antennas are in close proximity to residential areas. Mr. Kappes requested the Board's intervention in halting the installations until a public hearing is held.
- B. Chairman McShane responded that the Board's Traffic & Transportation Committee has this issue on its agenda for the meeting on November 18th and welcomed Mr. Kappes' attendance.
- C. Mayra Linares, Con Edison, reported on the status of the M-29 transmission line and advised that an application was submitted to the Department of Environmental Conservation for a permit for the tunnel shaft work for the discharge and treatment of water in the Harlem River.

1. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes of October 7, 2008

The minutes were approved unanimously.

2. Discussion of Executive Board Minutes of November 5, 2008.

The minutes were adopted as written

3. Chairman welcomed Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz, and his staff member Randi Martos; Richard Fedderman, representing Congressman Eliot Engel; Andy Toledo, representing Borough President Adolfo Carrión, Jr.; Robert Press, representing State Senator Efrain Gonzalez; Christina Harvey, representing State Senator Eric Schneiderman; P.O Mindy Ramos, and Detective Luis Rodriguez, 50th Precinct; Margot Perron, Van Cortlandt Park; Nestor Danyluk, Department of City Planning; Candice Giove, Riverdale Review; and Nick Judd, Riverdale Press.

4. Chairman invited Assemblyman Dinowitz to address the Board.

Assemblyman Dinowitz thanked the Land Use Committee for voting and denying the application for 3217 Irwin Avenue a/ka 3210 Riverdale Avenue. He also discussed the RFP for reduction and consolidation of senior centers and asked that the Board's Aging Committee take up the issue. He announced his Office annual canned food drive which was underway and sponsored in conjunction with Public Schools/Middle Schools 7, 24, 81, 141 and local organizations.

5. Chairman's Report

- Announced the passing of three former Board Members, Elizabeth Luna, Ernestine Mann, and Ellen Hightower.
- Chairman and C. Moerdler met with representatives of Manhattan College regarding the bridge overpass and reviewed the new bridge design by the Arts Commission which is dramatically different from the original design presented to the Board.
- Chairman and C. Moerdler met with the developer of the Broadway Plaza Project at West 230th Street. The Land Use Committee will hold a public hearing on the ULURP application on December 2nd.
- Chairman advised that there are instances when the Board office is contacted for the Board Members' address list, usually for community events. He asked that if

any Member is opposed to having their name/address circulated to contact the Board Office.

6. Report from the Office of the Borough President – A. Toledo

- The full report was submitted for the record.
- Applications for Community Board appointments are now available.
- Locations for Bike racks are being compiled.

7. Report from the Department of City Planning – N. Danyluk

- Ittleson Center Reconstruction application authorization is pending and will be submitted to the Board.
- Recommendations from the Board should be received in a timely manner for consideration.
- The application for 230th/Broadway has been submitted to the Board, and it is a full ULURP requiring a public hearing.

8. Committee Reports

A. Land Use – C. Moerdler

1. Presented the following resolutions approved by the Land Use Committee on November 3, 2008:

- A. **Resolved**, Community Board No. 8, Bronx, approved Department of City Planning, Application No. N 080421 ZAX, 4911 Arlington Avenue (Block 5940, Lot 360) for the grant of authorizations involving modification of yard, height and setback regulations and a waiver of tree planting requirements to allow an enlargement of a single-family residence within the Special Natural Area District (NA-2)

Vote: 27 in Favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions

R. Abbott, B. Bender, D. Bowden, A. P. Cassino, W. S. Dolny, T. Durham, R. Fanuzzi, B. Fettman, P. Friedman, A. Goldman, M. Khury, B. Maybury, D. McShane, C. G. Moerdler, R. Moll, K. Pesce, J. M. Pilsner, J. Plaza, C. Prentice, J. Reyes, T. Rubinstein, S. Scheinbach, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, E. T. Tucker, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

- B. **Resolved**, Board of Standards and Appeals Application, Calendar No. 214-07-BZ, 3217 Irwin Avenue (a/k/a 3210 Riverdale Avenue) for request to permit transient parking (UG 8) in the garage of a residential and community facility building in an R6 zoning district; and revision of the residential floor plans to decrease the size of the apartments and increase number of units per floor was **DENIED** by Community Board No. 8, Bronx, on the grounds it failed to make the findings required by Sec. 72-21. The application failed to demonstrate why this does not adversely change the intrinsic character of the community and neighborhood. The Board finds that it does affirmatively and adversely change the character of the neighborhood; and fails to

*Serving the neighborhoods of Fieldston, Kingsbridge, Kingsbridge Heights,
Marble Hill, Riverdale, Spuyten Duyvil, and Van Cortlandt Village*

support a finding of hardship not brought on by and with the knowledge of the applicant, or that it was not self-created. The Board affirmatively finds that there was knowledge on the part of the applicant with respect to the basis of that hardship (i.e., the claimed unstable rock condition) and finally, the applicant has failed to demonstrate that the claimed operative condition of the premises is unique as compared with the conditions attendant to adjacent and surrounding properties. The Board notes that the applicant was afforded an opportunity to adjourn the application in order to permit the applicant to complete the record to remedy the foregoing findings and declined to do so.

Vote: 26 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention with cause

In Favor –

R. Abbott, B. Bender, D. Bowden, A. P. Cassino, W. S. Dolny, T. Durham, R. Fanuzzi, B. Fettman, P. Friedman, A. Goldman, M. Khury, B. Maybury, D. McShane, C. G. Moerdler, K. Pesce, J. M. Pilsner, J. Plaza, C. Prentice, J. Reyes, T. Rubinstein, S. Scheinbach, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, E. T. Tucker, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

Abstention With Cause –

R. Moll

2. Land Use and Housing Committees will meet jointly on November 24, 2008 and the ULURP application for the Broadway Plaza Project at West 230th Street will be on the agenda for the December 2nd Land Use meeting.

B. Education – D. Bowden

1. Thanked Assemblyman Dinowitz for being guest speaker at the Committee's October meeting. He presented the topic of Mayoral control vs. community control of schools.
2. Reviewed proposed Education budget cuts of both City and State.
3. The Early Learning School at the Whitehall annex will operate through 2010.
4. There is news of a proposal for a Charter school for the Board's district. Anyone with more information is asked to contact D. Bowden.
5. Congressman Anthony Weiner will be the guest speaker at the Committee's meeting on November 25th. The meeting is being held at the Riverdale Mental Health Association at 7:30 PM.
6. Principals from AmPark and PS 95 have been invited to the December meeting to discuss the school extension at PS 95. AmPark has committed to attend, PS 95 will confirm at a later date.

C. Youth – C. Prentice

1. Conducting research on the youth budget cuts.
2. Yankees Youth Leadership Award nominees were selected.

3. Thanked T. Durham for chairing the October Committee meeting. The next meeting will be held on December 17th, Board Office, at 1:00 PM.

D. Housing – T. Durham

The joint meeting with Land Use on November 24th will include review of the blue prints for 3882 Cannon Place, along with discussion of abandoned property sites throughout the community.

E. Libraries & Cultural Affairs – R. Abbott

1. The report is as written in the Committee minutes.
2. The Libraries budget cuts indicate scaled back operation from six day service to five and one-half days of service. More information will be provided at the next meeting.

F. Parks & Recreation – B. Bender

1. Scope meetings for Van Cortlandt Park Veterans' Memorial Grove; and Henry Hudson Monument will both be held on November 21st.
2. Veterans Day ceremony held at the Van Cortlandt Park Veterans' Memorial Grove was very moving and was organized by Herb Barrett.

G. Public Safety

In the absence of A.G. Feldmeier, Chairman referred the Board to the Committee minutes for the report.

H. Traffic & Transportation – A. P. Cassino

1. Refer to minutes for full report.
2. The Committee has been dealing with the issue of "fraudulent" parking tickets. The investigation is ongoing.
3. Thanked 50th Precinct for removing over 15 abandoned cars off the streets in the community.
4. The Committee will review the traffic report related to the development of the Broadway Plaza Project at West 230th Street
5. The 252nd Street Henry Hudson Bridge closings will be in effect from November 17th – 25th, from 10 – 3 PM.

I. Aging – K. Pesce

1. Office of Emergency Management revised and made available "Ready New York Guide for Seniors and People with Disabilities" pamphlets.
2. The next Committee meeting will be held on November 25th, Methodist Church Home, 3:30 PM.

J. Economic Development – R. Fanuzzi

1. New York Urban League has opened a new job training site in the Bronx at 1530 East 222nd Street.

2. Stop and Shop on Broadway will re-open November 15th.
3. Thanked T. Durham for his assistance with the list of locations for bike racks. The list will be passed on to the Traffic and Transportation Committee.
4. Manhattan College is looking at specialty food stores as part of its new development. The Committee will monitor for suitability. Also, the Committee is hoping for a "sliver" of the property to be dedicated for a book store.
5. There will be a guest speaker to discuss Greenmarkets at the next meeting on November 19th, Board Office, at 7:30 PM.
6. A discussion on the retail development of the Broadway Plaza at West 230th Street and Broadway will occur at the December 2nd Land Use Committee meeting.

K. Environment & Sanitation – S. Scheinbach

1. Refer to minutes for report.
2. The Croton Water Filtration Monitoring Committee meeting will be held on November 20th. Discussion will include the latest chorine gas leak which occurred at Jerome Park Reservoir at Gatehouse 5.
3. The Environment & Sanitation Committee will be on November 13th, Board Office, at 7:00 PM. Discussion will include Department of Environmental Protection plans for the rehabilitation of the Mosholu Golf Course Club House; and Department of Sanitation winter snow removal.

9. District Manager's Report – N. Stent

Ms. Stent announced that Bronx Community Board No. 8 launched its new website at www.nyc.gov/bronxcb8. A press release was issued to the Board members, media, elected officials, community and senior centers, community groups and schools. The release was printed in the Riverdale Press and Riverdale Review and we thank them for the coverage.

The Board's web site provides resource information and data relative to the district's planning initiatives. There is also a meeting calendar and the Board's archive of agendas and minutes. The Board staff worked for many months to develop this user-friendly on-line tool for locating information on city agencies, filing permits and working with the Board to address local complaints and concerns via a downloadable form.

The site has features that include city land use and zoning information, city planning district maps, community health profiles and statistical data. There are links to major issues and reports that Bronx Community Board No. 8 has addressed in recent years including:

- the 197-a Plan, a comprehensive strategic planning report for the district;
- Special Natural Area District; and
- Adoption of the Fieldston Historic District

Additionally, the District Manager thanked Phil Friedman for his input on the website and welcomed suggestions from other Board members as well. Committees have their own section with a listing of committee members and minutes.

Especially useful to the Board members is the "About CB8" section where board members have many resources such as The Handbook for Community Board Members, Parliamentary Procedures for Community Boards, and a Manual for the Board's Participation in the City Budget Process. There is also an area that offers the history of community boards and the community board's responsibilities. The Board's Statement of Community District Needs and FY 2010 Capital and Expense Budget Priorities are also featured on the site.

Additionally, a visitor to the site can ask for phrases from the website to be translated into a choice of 35 different languages.

Bronx Community Board No. 8 is the first Bronx Board to have a Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications (DoITT) supported website and it is provided without cost to the Board.

10. Treasurer's Report – J. Reyes

In view of the Board's proposed budget cuts, J. Reyes advised that she is looking for ways to raise funds for the Board, and to that end, a committee will be set up to conduct research on how to proceed.

J. Reyes reviewed and explained the distributed Board's Financial Report. She advised that editing would be done and it would be re-submitted.

Meeting adjourned 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Manning
Community Associate