

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8**

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
HELD ON MAY 12, 2009 AT  
WAVE HILL, ARMOR HALL, 675 WEST 252<sup>nd</sup> STREET**

**PRESENT:** R. Abbott, B. Bender, D. Bowden, A. P. Cassino, A. P. Creaney, W. S. Dolny, T. C. Durham, R. Fanuzzi, A. G. Feldmeier, B. Fettman, P. Friedman, T. Giallorenzi, A. Goldman, M. Katzenstein, M. Khury, G. O. Koppell, I. Ladimer, B. Maybury, D. McShane, C. Moerdler, K. Pesce, J. M. Pilsner, J. Plaza, S. Scheinbach, I. W. Stone, B. Trebach, E. Tossas Tucker, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

**ABSENT:** A. Fana, T. Feerick, B. Feinberg, J. Goris, V. Gray, K. O'Brien, J. O'Reilly, C. Prentice, J. M. Reyes, L. Spalter

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

**GUESTS:** G. O. Koppell – City Councilman  
J. DeSio – rep. Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.  
R. Fedderman – rep. Congressman Eliot Engel  
A. Zamcheck – rep. State Senator Jeffrey Klein  
J. Kim - rep. State Senator Eric Schneiderman  
J. Sonett – rep. State Senator Malcolm Smith  
R. Martos – Office of Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz  
A. Keefe – Office of Councilman G. Oliver Koppell  
N. Danyluk – Department of City Planning  
Capt. A. Lindquist – 50<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct  
Det. L. Rodriguez – 50<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct  
PO Rivera – NYPD Headquarters  
PO Velez – NYPD Headquarters  
S. Alexander  
R. Barbier – NYPL Riverdale Branch  
L. Begiraj  
M. Borell  
A. Cohen  
S. DiRaimo  
K. Duffy  
E. Falk  
R. Franke  
C. Giove – Riverdale Review  
J. Gordon  
N. Judd – Riverdale Press  
S. Finkelman Lowenstein  
P. Otto - KRV CDC  
P. Moerdler  
D. Padernacht  
M. Perron – Van Cortlandt Park  
V. Pizzoli – NYPL Riverdale Branch  
R. Press – Bronx News  
D. Randolph – Riverdale Country School  
E. Rangel  
R. Rangel  
H. Ring

M. Rosen  
C. Santiago – Veteran’s Administration  
M. Schachter  
S. Spielberg  
T. Tureski – NYPL Spuyten Duyvil Branch  
C. White

Vice Chairman Trebach convened the meeting at 7:40 PM.

**Gallery Session**

- A. Cristobal Santiago, discussed services provided to war veterans at the Bronx Vet Center located at 2471 Morris Avenue, which opened in 1979 following the Vietnam War. Services include readjustment counseling, working with the homeless returning from wars, making referrals to the VA Hospital, etc. Information and flyers will be sent to the Board office.
- B. Dominick Randolph, Riverdale Country School, presented plans for renovation of the school’s ball field. The natural dirt field will be replaced with synthetic turf of natural material. No lights will be added, and there is no requirement for tree removal. Work is expected to last four months and will begin June 1<sup>st</sup>. West 253<sup>rd</sup> Street between Post and Fieldston Roads will be mostly impacted.  
  
C. Moerdler raised concern with the presentation taking place at Gallery Session rather than at a Land Use Committee meeting. Vice Chairman Trebach advised that the presentation was cleared by Chairman McShane.
- C. Margot Perron, Administrator, Van Cortlandt Park (VCP), distributed the VCP Newsletter; and announced the establishment of the new Van Cortlandt Park Conservancy. She advised that the members are working on the creation of a Community Council.
- D. Rebecca Barbier, introduced herself as the new Site Manager at Riverdale Branch Library. She informed of the programs, workshops, computer availability, and free WIFI services. Spuyten Duyvil and Riverdale branches sponsor book discussions. Tim Tureski, Spuyten Duyvil Branch Library advised about a letter writing campaign to the Mayor and Borough President to rescind the \$28 million budget reduction to the libraries.

- 1. Approval of the regular Board Minutes of April 7, 2009

The minutes were approved unanimously.

- 2. Discussion of Executive Board Minutes of May 6, 2009

The minutes were accepted as written.

- 3. Presentation of the Community Service Awards – R. Abbott

Before announcing the names of the honorees for the Community Service Award, R. Abbott thanked all those who were involved with selections and nominations. He reviewed the purpose and guidelines for the Award and called upon committee members B. Maybury, T. Durham, and M. Khury to assist with the presentations of the Community Service Award. The following honorees were announced and called forward:

- Susan Di Raimo - for her volunteer work with the Northwest Support Committee for the Homeless; establishing an overnight shelter at Kingsbridge Heights Community Center for homeless men; volunteering in the capacity of director for the program; and for creating an intern program to train the men as leaders and prepare them for the transition to living on their own.

Ms. Di Raimo thanked the Board for the honor and spoke of the importance of getting involved in such work. She spoke of the recent closing of the shelter at Kingsbridge Heights Community Center due to the Parks Department's rule that do not permit overnight hours.

- Riverdale Community Center's Teen Action Education Program - a group of 24 eighth grade students from Riverdale Kingsbridge Academy who acted as volunteer tutors for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students from P.S. 24, and provided academic support under the guidance of teacher Rachael Franke: Sharmeen Azad, Eric Berger, Jade Brown, Jade Concepcion, Chelsea Garcia, Tanasi Gomez-Greene, Salveira Gonzalez, Bria Heyward, Giovanni Jackson, Benjamin Jurcic, Saara Kumar, Robert Lynch, Brittany Malorano, Ashley Nunez, Carol Palacios, Samuel Piland, Julian Rachko, Sonia Ivette, Megan Schachter, Karina Schulz, Anna-Taya Spencer, Marita Williams, David Zhang, and Lucy Zicherman.
- Riverdale Neighborhood House After School Tutoring program - a group of 7 high school students, who volunteered as tutors with younger children on a one-on-one basis and assisted with homework and provided academic support: Jaimee Dominguez, Riverdale Kingsbridge Academy (MS/HS 141); Phoebe Gonzalez, Ethical Culture Fieldston School; Jake Lesser, Riverdale Country School; Nisso Nurova, Cardinal Spellman High School; Wendy Puello, InTech Academy (MS/HS 368); Edward Shaer of Fordham Preparatory School; and Becky Wasserman, Ethical Culture Fieldston School.

Chairman McShane arrived and assumed the Chair.

4. Chairman welcomed Councilmember G. Oliver Koppell, John DeSio, new representative of the new Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.; Richard Fedderman, representing Congressman Eliot Engel; Judy Sonett, representing State Senator Malcom Smith; Jihoon Kim, representing State Senator Eric Schneiderman; Abraham Zamcheck, representing State Senator Jeffrey Klein; Randi Martos, representing Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz; Aya Keefe, Office of Councilmember Koppell; Nestor Danyluk, Department of City Planning; Captain Al Lindquist, and Detective Luis Rodriguez, 50<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct; P.O. Velez and P.O. Rivera, NYPD Headquarters; Candice Giove, Riverdale Review; Nick Judd, Riverdale Press.
5. Chairman invited Captain Lindquist to address the Board.

Captain Lindquist reported on the crime statistics. Overall crime is down by 11%, and noted that the high number of arrests in the 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct were history making. Eight new officers were assigned to the Precinct, bringing the number to 138 officers. With respect to complaints in the parks, the Captain advised that the problems will be addressed.

## 6. Report from the Borough President's Office – J. DeSio

- Advised of his new position in the offices of the Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr., and that he will be leaving the Riverdale Review. Candice Giove, will take over the Board assignment at the paper.
- Board appointment letters will be sent by May 31<sup>st</sup>. Members seeking reappointment should continue to serve until further notice, even though those terms ended March 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Borough President Diaz, Jr. was officially sworn in May 1, 2009, another swearing-in ceremony will be held May 21<sup>st</sup>, at Lehman College Performing Arts Center, from 2-4PM. All are welcome.
- Former Borough President Earl Brown secured funding of \$2 ½ million for a Bronx Children Museum. The Bronx is the only borough without a museum for children. A location is being researched. For more information and input send e-mail to [bxcmfinfo@gmail.com](mailto:bxcmfinfo@gmail.com).
- The first few days in office for Borough President Diaz, Jr. brought him to the Riverdale area for a meeting of the Riverdale Chamber of Commerce.
- Upcoming events include Bike to Work Day on Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, at 7 AM. Participants will meet at Poe Park, bike ride down Concourse to 161<sup>st</sup> Street for a free power breakfast.
- The Bronx Historic Preservation Landmarking report will be reviewed and addressed, particularly with respect to impact on religious institutions.

## 7. Chairman's Report

- Reminded Board members of their responsibility to attend Committee meetings.
- Thanked Councilman Martinez for his invite to his Town Hall meeting in Marble Hill.
- Many thanks to City Councilmembers G. Oliver Koppell, Maria Baez and the entire City Council Bronx Delegation for sending a letter to Speaker Quinn and lobbying to fully rescind the budget cuts to community boards.
- The Borough President's Office is now working with the Community Boards on the proposal to eliminate the budget cuts.
- Attended the Croton Filtration Plant Monitoring Committee meeting. It has been decided that blasting will occur in excavating Jerome Park Reservoir, in lieu of hoe ramming. Chairman McShane and Committee Chair Scheinbach will continue to monitor for adherence to the request for an Environmental Impact Study before blasting is conducted.

## 8. Treasurer's Report

No report.

## 9. District Manager's Report

Presented the Board Office's quarterly expenditure report which was distributed at the beginning of the meeting. Notable changes showed an increase of \$3,500 that had been allocated by Councilmember Maria Baez to the Board. An additional increase was reported due to labor union raises for two staff members.

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

Two applications are pending.

11. Chairman invited Councilman Koppell to address the Board.

Councilman Koppell reported on city council budget negotiations that were in progress. The focus has been on technology upgrades in schools. P.S. 81 will have a groundbreaking for its new playground funded by Out to Play. The Council held a hearing earlier during the day on Fire House Closings. He added that the Bronx Delegation fully supported the community boards and opposed budget cuts.

12. Committee Reports

A. Public Safety – A. G. Feldmeier

1. 18 summonses were recently issued to Manhattan College students residing on Tibbett and Corlear Avenues.
2. Connecting Bar's liquor license was lost. Ireland's Own Bar license renewal is in jeopardy. Peppino's was closed down.

B. Traffic and Transportation – A. P. Cassino

1. Kappock Street Retaining Wall reconstruction is on target for June completion.
2. West 246<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge completion is slated for June.
3. West 252<sup>nd</sup> Street Bridge is open, and the corner is almost done.
4. Riverdale Avenue Bridge overpass completion is slated for summer.
5. Sign changes for Alternate Side Parking reduction will be forthcoming
6. The following resolution was presented:

**WHEREAS**, the proposed re-signing of the Henry Hudson Parkway by New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) is an opportunity to replace its injurious earlier signage with sensitivity to the context and aspirations of this densely populated green corridor; and

**WHEREAS**, NYSDOT has developed parkway design guidelines for the Palisades, Taconic, Long Island and other state parkways; and

**WHEREAS**, the State and City departments of transportation have collaborated in the design and implementation of signage along Route 9A in Manhattan to enhance the linear park and residential development;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Bronx Community Board No. 8 calls on NYSDOT to apply similar design guidelines to the Henry Hudson Parkway, and to work with the Office of NYS Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, NYC Department of Parks and Recreation, NYC Department of Transportation, and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority on a comprehensive Corridor Management Plan before undertaking this re-signing project.

**Vote:** 24 in favor, 2 opposed, and 1 abstention

**In Favor –**

R. Abbott, B. Bender, D. Bowden, A. P. Cassino, A. P. Creaney, W. S. Dolny, T. C. Durham, R. Fanuzzi, A. G. Feldmeier, P. Friedman, A. Goldman,

M. Katzenstein, M. Khury, I. Ladimer, B. Maybury, D. McShane, K. Pesce,  
J. M. Pilsner, J. Plaza, S. Scheinbach, I. W. Stone, B. Trebach,  
E. Tossas Tucker, M. Wolpoff

**Opposed –**

B. Fettman, T. Giallorenzi

**Abstention –**

C. G. Moerdler

7. The following amended resolution was presented:

**WHEREAS**, under city law, it is the responsibility of Bronx Community Board No. 8 Bronx to review unenclosed sidewalk café applications in its district; and

**WHEREAS**, Jasper's Pizza & More, LLC, at 3535 Riverdale Avenue, Bronx, NY has submitted an application for an unenclosed sidewalk café license to the New York City Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA); and

**WHEREAS**, Jasper's Pizza & More, LLC has been a longstanding member and contributor to the community and the DCA and the 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct have no record of complaints filed against Jasper's Pizza & More; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Bronx Community Board No. 8 Bronx has no objection to the unenclosed sidewalk café application from Jasper's Pizza & More, LLC.

**Vote:** 27 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions

**In Favor -**

R. Abbott, B. Bender, D. Bowden, A. P. Cassino, A. P. Creaney, W. S. Dolny, T. C. Durham, R. Fanuzzi, A. G. Feldmeier, B. Fettman, P. Friedman, T. Giallorenzi, A. Goldman, M. Katzenstein, M. Khury, I. Ladimer, B. Maybury, D. McShane, C. Moerdler, K. Pesce, J. M. Pilsner, J. Plaza, S. Scheinbach, I. W. Stone, B. Trebach, E. Tossas Tucker, M. Wolpoff

C. Youth

T. Durham reported in the absence of C. Prentice. The Committee is reviewing budget requests for Fiscal Year 2011.

D. Aging – K. Pesce

1. The next meeting will be held on May 26<sup>th</sup>, at Kittay House, at 3:30 PM.
2. I. Ladimer advised of Riverdale Senior Services (RSS) 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Spring Celebration being held on June 4<sup>th</sup>, from 6-9 PM, at the River Room in Manhattan. I. Ladimer along with Gloria Neuwirth, Esq. will be honored. He invited all to support this event; He thanked all those who gave financial support to RSS Adult Day Activities Program to keep it up and running. However the program will be closing by the end of June due to lack of funding unless donors are found. The extra Friday meal at the center may also be discontinued. He urged support of the Center.

E. Budget

No report.

F. Economic Development – R. Fanuzzi

1. Zagat's is holding its annual voting for restaurants, and it can be done on-line.
2. Target is hiring Bronx residents and will be holding a Bronx Expo.
3. The Committee held its last meeting at Tucci's Gallery and found it to be a superb gallery. Encouraged visitors.
4. A Youth Green Market will open in Marble Hill at West 225<sup>th</sup> and Broadway on July 11th. It will operate on Thursdays from 2:00 – 8:00 PM. The youth will be supported by Riverdale Neighborhood House and supervised by Green Market supervisors. It will be a counterpart to the existing successful youth market at Riverdale Neighborhood House.
5. The next meeting will be held on May 28<sup>th</sup>, Board Office, at 7:30 PM.

G. Education – D. Bowden

1. Bill Gates Foundation has recently given \$150 million to education.
2. The Community Education Council's meeting will be held on May 21<sup>st</sup>, at P.S. 46.
3. The Education Committee's next meeting will be held on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, Board Office.
4. The following resolution was presented:

**WHEREAS**, before Mayoral Control, Community Board No. 8, Bronx, enjoyed success in our public schools and good relationships between those in our school community and community school district; and

**WHEREAS**, since the inception of Mayoral Control in 2004, parents and the school community have been taken out of the decision making process by the Mayor and Chancellor;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Community Board No. 8, Bronx, recommends to the State legislature that Mayoral Control be amended to increase parental and community involvement in community schools and community school districts.

**Vote:** 18 in favor, 6 opposed, 3 abstentions, and 1abstention with cause

**In Favor –**

R. Abbott, B. Bender, D. Bowden, A. P. Creaney, T. C. Durham, R. Fanuzzi, A. G. Feldmeier, B. Fettman, P. Friedman, T. Giallorenzi, M. Katzenstein, M. Khury, B. Maybury, D. McShane, J. Plaza, I. W. Stone, E. Tossas Tucker, M. Wolpoff,

**Opposed –**

A. P. Cassino, W. S. Dolny, I. Ladimer, B. Trebach, S. Scheinbach, H. Young

**Abstentions –**

A. Goldman, K. Pesce, J. Pilsner

**Abstention With Cause**

C. Moerdler

5. Assemblyman Dinowitz will sponsor a meeting on the topic of Mayoral Control on May 21<sup>st</sup>, at 7:30 PM, at the Riverdale Temple. All are invited.
6. Discussed the Gifted and Talented classes in neighborhood schools.

#### H. Environment and Sanitation – S. Scheinbach

1. Illegally placed signs continue to plague the community. A bill is in City Council that would address the problem. Call Councilman Simcha Felder to support the bill, 212-788-7357.
2. \$2.5 million stimulus funds will go toward counteracting graffiti.
3. No Croton Filtration Monitoring Committee meeting in May.
4. The Environment & Sanitation Committee will meet May 19<sup>th</sup>, Board Office, at 7:30 PM. Potential environmental impact of horizontal gas drilling will be reviewed.

#### I. Health, Hospitals and Social Services – M. Katzenstein

1. Welcomed I. W. Stone back after hospitalization.
2. Representatives of St. Joseph's Hospital will attend next Committee meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup>, Board Office, 7:00 PM to discuss a proposal to operate a satellite methadone treatment program at Terrace Health Care Center.

#### J. Housing – T. Durham

1. The Promenade Apartments are managed by RY management; however a new management team has been assigned. Fire safety issues, terrace violations and repairs are being addressed.
2. 3882 Cannon Place is an as-of-right "supportive housing" development. The Department of Buildings will hold its temporary certificate of occupancy to guarantee compliance.

A. Cassino disclosed that his law firm, Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy, was providing pro-bono services to the residents in the Cannon Place area on the supportive housing issue.

#### K. Land Use – C. Moerdler

1. The Committee has reviewed the Master Plan for Fieldston extensively. He proposed a resolution from the floor to offer testimony at the hearing of Landmarks Preservation Commission. The motion was unanimously approved.

**Vote:** 28 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions

#### **In Favor -**

R. Abbott, B. Bender, D. Bowden, A. P. Cassino, A. P. Creaney, W. S. Dolny, T. C. Durham, R. Fanuzzi, A. G. Feldmeier, B. Fettman, P. Friedman, T. Giallorenzi, A. Goldman, M. Katzenstein, M. Khury, I. Ladimer, B. Maybury, D. McShane, C. Moerdler, K. Pesce, J. M. Pilsner, J. Plaza, S. Scheinbach, I. W. Stone,

B. Trebach, E. Tossas Tucker, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

2. C. Moerdler suggested logging the vacancies in the in recently constructed high rise buildings.

L. Law, Rules and Ethics

I. Ladimer discussed the finalized Ethical Guidance Manual recently distributed to all Board members. He thanked Nicole Stent, and Pat Manning for their assistance and all those who reviewed the draft and made recommendations. In closing, he offered the hope that Board members will find the Manual useful and informative; and strongly urged that matters of concern be brought to the Committee in advance of contacting the Conflicts of Interest Board.

M. Libraries and Cultural Affairs – R. Abbott

1. The Committee met at the Bronx Library Center and had a great experience. The Chair encouraged others to visit.
2. The Committee's Mission Statement was completed.

N. Parks and Recreation – B. Bender

1. The Committee discussed Jerome Park Reservoir and heard from the new Van Cortlandt Park Conservancy.
2. The next Committee meeting will be held on May 27<sup>th</sup>, Board Office, at 7:00 PM. Budget priorities will be discussed.

Meeting adjourned 10:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Manning  
Community Associate