

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON JUNE 14, 2011 AT THE CONSERVATIVE SYNAGOGUE 475 WEST 250TH STREET

- PRESENT:** R. Abbott, S. Alexander, S. Balicer, R. Bender, S. Catechis, A. Cohen, B. Contant, E. Corcino, A. P. Creaney, W. S. Dolny, T. Durham, R. Fanuzzi, A. G. Feldmeier, B. Fettman, S. Froot, R. Ginty, M. Ginzburg, M. Goodman, N. Graham, C. Hanley, M. Heller, M. Khury, G. O. Koppell, I. Ladimer, T. Lim, R. Pochter Lowe, S. Marquez, D. McShane, C. G. Moerdler, D. Padernacht, J. M. Pilsner, A. Piscitelli, R. Press, J. Reyes, X. Sanchez, G. Santiago, A. A. Spett, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, H. Young
- ABSENT:** D. Bowden, D. Kirksey-Floyd, P. Friedman, A. Moore, P. Mullen, K. Pesce, P. Reyes
- STAFF:** N. Stent – District Manager
D. Bay – Community Associate
P. Manning – Community Associate
- GUESTS:** R. Agdern – rep. State Senator Gustavo Rivera
J. Doyle – rep. State Senator Jeffrey Klein
R. Fedderman – rep. Congressman Eliot Engel
R. Martos – rep. Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz
C. McShane – rep. Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.
A. Sandler – rep. Councilman G. O. Koppell
N. Danyluk – Department of City Planning
L. Acevedo – NYPL Jerome Park Branch
M. Perron – Van Cortlandt Park
P.O. Ramos – NYPD, 50th Precinct
A. Rubio – NYPL Van Cortlandt Branch
A. Wisnieski – Riverdale Press
E. Amado
M. M. Anton
G. Feliciano
B. Feinberg
D. Gonzalez
P. Moerdler
J. Spett
M. Spett

Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

1. Gallery Session

Diana Gonzalez from Leake & Watts announced their Community Day being held on June 18th, at 463 Hawthorne Avenue, Yonkers, from 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM. There will be free carnival games and prizes, softball and live music, a tour of the campus, and food will be available for purchase. For more information call 914-375-8912 or visit the website at development@leakeandwatts.org.

2. Approval of Regular Board Meeting Minutes of May 10, 2011

R. Press made an amendment on page 7, concerning the motion on the Ice Skating Rink, to state that an Environmental Impact Study was being requested with respect to permanent chillers and other permanent structures.

The minutes were approved as amended unanimously.

3. Discussion of Executive Board Meeting Minutes of June 8, 2011

The minutes were accepted as written.

4. Chairman invited Councilman Koppell to address the Board.

- Councilman Koppell welcomed the new members to the Board.
- Councilman advised that the Council is in its final stages of budget negotiations. There is great concern about budget cuts to teachers, firehouses, childcare, mental health, libraries, and cultural affairs institutions. The Council will make some restorations, but will be unable to restore all cuts.

5. Report from the Office of the Bronx Borough President – C. McShane

- Cash for Guns event on Saturday, June 11, 2011 held by Borough President Diaz, District Attorney Johnson, and the NYPD was hugely successful with 354 guns being turned in. The Borough President credited the Police Department, District Attorney's office, partner churches and his own dedicated staff for its success.
- On Saturday, June 11, 2011, Senator Gustavo Rivera, and Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. came together to announce the launch of the Bronx CAN (Change Attitudes Now) Health Initiative. For more information visit www.bronxcan.com.
- On Saturday, May 21, 2011 Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. hosted the Annual Bronx Ball and this year's inductees into the Bronx Walk of Fame were honored.
- On Sunday, May 22, 2011 Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. celebrated the grand finale of Bronx Week 2011 by hosting a parade down Mosholu Parkway with hundreds of Bronx students and youth organizations.

6. Chairman's Report

- Chairman McShane conveyed heartfelt condolences to Anthony Creaney and his family on the untimely passing of his beloved son Noel.
- Reported that S. Scheinbach's board membership was not renewed. He expressed appreciation and gratitude to Saul Scheinbach for his service and dedication while serving both as member and as chair of the Environment and Sanitation Committee. Chairman advised that due to health reasons, D. Bowden has stepped down from chair of the Education Committee, a position held by her since 1998. He thanked D. Bowden for her leadership role in education advocacy for schools in Community Board 8. Formal letters of appreciation will be sent to both.
- Chairman welcomed the following new Board members: Marvin Goodman, Xaxia Sanchez, Anthony Piscitelli, Madeline Ginzburg, Rita Lowe, and Edward Corcino (not present for introduction). Chairman invited the new members to give a short introduction.

- i. M. Goodman advised of his knowledge of the Community Board which he received first hand from his late wife Phyllis Goodman who had served on Community Board 8 for 28 years up until the time of her passing. She had chaired the Parks and Recreation Committee for many years, and the Phyllis Post Goodman Park was named in her honor.
 - ii. X. Sanchez informed of her former position as intern in the office of Councilman Koppell. She is now a social worker.
 - iii. A. Piscitelli acknowledged his ties in the community starting with his longstanding relationship with Councilman Koppell after meeting in Albany some years ago and with board members C. Moerdler, and R. Ginty.
 - iv. M. Ginzburg referenced her dental practice in Riverdale for more than 28 years as example of community stability. She commented on her strong belief and practice of giving back to community.
 - v. Rita Lowe stated that she is looking forward to serving on the Board, and continuing her life work of volunteerism and helping out in the community. Her spirit of community service took root in Brooklyn and she has continued in the same manner after moving to the Bronx years ago.
- Chairman advised that this would be the final meeting chaired by him as he would step down as Board Chair. He especially thanked Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. for his guidance and his staff for their great assistance and support, and each of the local elected officials for all their assistance. He warmly acknowledged each of the Board officers and expressed gratitude for their able assistance, in particular Charles Moerdler and Joyce Pilsner, and also thanked District Manager Nicole Stent, along with Board staff members Diane and Pat.
7. Councilman Koppell presented Bert Feinberg with a proclamation acknowledging his 30 years of membership on Community Board No. 8 where he served as Chair of the Environment and Sanitation Committee from 1983 to 1997, and served as Board Secretary from 2006 to 2007. Councilman elaborated on Bert's all around community activism and his charismatic smile that brings joy into any room. Bert was congratulated for all his wonderful achievements. Mr. Feinberg accepted the proclamation and Bert thanked the Councilman and the Board.

8. Treasurer's Report

No report

9. District Manager's Report

No report.

10. Report of the Nominating Committee – R. Abbott

The Committee discussed whether or not board officers could serve on the Nominating Committee if seeking nomination. Discussion ensued.

Chairman McShane explained that he had advised the Committee that the Board's bylaws were silent on the issue, and the Committee's tact should follow the precedent already set over the past 25 years of allowing Board officers and committee chairs to serve on the Nominating committee even while seeking nomination. However, going forward, the Law, Rules and Ethics Committee will review the issue in the fall.

R. Abbott proceeded to present the report of the Nominating Committee.

He advised that the Nominating Committee met on May 4, May 26, June 8, and June 9. Several board members addressed the committee on their own behalf and in support of other candidates. He expressed appreciation for the time given by all who met with the Committee.

R. Abbott presented the following slate of Officers recommended by the Nominating Committee:

Chairman	Robert Fanuzzi
Vice Chair	Maria Khury
Secretary	Joyce Pilsner
Treasurer	Philip Friedman

Chairman opened the floor for nominations. Hearing none, nominations were closed and Chairman called for a vote on the slate.

Vote: 32 in favor, 1 opposed, and 7 abstentions

In Favor –

R. Abbott, S. Alexander, S. Balicer, R. Bender, S. Catechis, A. Cohen, B. Contant, A. P. Creaney, W. S. Dolny, T. Durham, R. Fanuzzi, M. Ginzburg, M. Goodman, N. Graham, C. Hanley, M. Khury, I. Ladimer, T. Lim, R. Pochter Lowe, S. Marquez, D. McShane, J. M. Pilsner, A. Piscitelli, J. Reyes, X. Sanchez, G. Santiago, A. A. Spett, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

Opposed –

M. Heller

Abstentions –

A.G. Feldmeier, B. Fettman, S. Froot, R. Ginty, C. G. Moerdler, D. Padernacht, R. Press

R. Abbott presented the following slate of Committee Chairs recommended by the nominating Committee:

Aging	Karen Pesce
Budget	Brendan Contant
Economic Development	Sergio Villaverde
Education	Sylvia Alexander
Environment & Sanitation	Rosemary Ginty
Health, Hosp. & Soc Services	Steven Froot
Housing	Thomas Durham
Land Use	Charles G. Moerdler
Law, Rules & Ethics	Irving Ladimer
Libraries & Cultural Affairs	Robert Abbott
Parks & Recreation	Bob Bender
Public Safety	Arlene Garbett Feldmeier
Traffic & Transportation	Daniel Padernacht

Chairman opened the floor for nominations. Hearing none, nominations were closed. Chairman called for a vote on the slate as presented for Committee Chairs.

Vote: 40 in favor 0 opposed, and 1 abstention

In Favor -

R. Abbott, S. Alexander, S. Balicer, R. Bender, S. Catechis, A. Cohen, B. Contant, E. Corcino, A. P. Creaney, W. S. Dolny, T. Durham, R. Fanuzzi, A. G. Feldmeier, B. Fettman, S. Froot, R. Ginty, M. Ginzburg, M. Goodman, N. Graham, C. Hanley, M. Heller, M. Khury, I. Ladimer, T. Lim, R. Pochter Lowe, S. Marquez, D. McShane, D. Padernacht, J. M. Pilsner, A. Piscitelli, R. Press, J. Reyes, X. Sanchez, G. Santiago, A. A. Spett, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

Abstention –

C. G. Moerdler

11. Committee Reports

A. Law, Rules and Ethics – I. Ladimer

1. Discussed the process of the Nominating Committee. The Law, Rules and Ethics Committee will look at the matter concerning “voting” issues raised. Conflict of Interest Board was contacted and response received indicated there is no conflict if a Nominating Committee member votes in his or her own interest.
2. Discussed lack of education about civics. Urged members of the Board to take on responsibility of teaching on this subject. This will be Committee’s first initiative next year; and the second initiative will be lawyers taking on pro bono service to small businesses.

B. Libraries and Cultural Affairs – R. Abbott

The Ribbon Cutting of the new Kingsbridge Branch Library will be held on June 28, 2011 at 10:00 A.M.

C. Parks and Recreation – B. Bender

1. B. Bender presented a resolution for granting all Board members voting rights at a summer meeting of the Parks and Recreation Committee dealing with the Ice Skating Rink proposal for Van Cortlandt Park.

The following amended resolution was presented for a vote:

WHEREAS, Bronx Community Board No. 8 (the Board) has held several public meetings to discuss the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation (Parks) proposal to install a skating rink within Van Cortlandt Park; and

WHEREAS, the Parks Department may approve a proposal for the installation of the skating rink during the summer months when the Board is out of session; and

WHEREAS, the Franchise and Concessions Review Commission (FCRC), which has approval authority over such proposals, has tentatively scheduled a meeting on August 8th to hear public testimony as part of its review of the proposal; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board authorizes its Parks and Recreation Committee to hold a public hearing during the summer recess before the scheduled hearing date in order to determine the Board's position on this matter; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board empowers the Parks & Recreation Committee to act in the name of the full Board in any written or oral testimony, including the drafting of any resolution on the matter, all of which are based on the majority opinion of the Parks & Recreation Committee members in attendance at that meeting; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that for the Parks & Recreation Committee meeting, Land Use and Public Safety Committees will also convene at this meeting; all Bronx Community Board No. 8 members shall be invited and all members in attendance shall be given voting privileges on this issue and other committee related issues as a member of the Parks & Recreation Committee.

Vote: 40 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions

R. Abbott, S. Alexander, S. Balicer, R. Bender, S. Catechis, A. Cohen, B. Contant, A. P. Creaney, W. S. Dolny, T. Durham, R. Fanuzzi, A. G. Feldmeier, B. Fettman, S. Froot, R. Ginty, M. Ginzburg, M. Goodman, N. Graham, C. Hanley, M. Heller, M. Khury, I. Ladimer, T. Lim, R. Pochter Lowe, S. Marquez, D. McShane, C. G. Moerdler, D. Padernacht, J. M. Pilsner, A. Piscitelli, R. Press, J. Reyes, X. Sanchez, G. Santiago, A. A. Spett, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

2. C. G. Moerdler conveyed compliments to B. Bender for his hard work on Riverfest 2011 event. B. Bender thanked all volunteers for a very successful affair that drew over 3,000 attendees.
3. At the Jerome Park Access meeting held by Borough President Diaz, Jr., all speakers were in favor of public access.
4. B. Bender thanked Damian for his service as Board Chair and thanked all for his re-election as Chair of the Parks and Recreation Committee.

D. Public Safety – A. G. Feldmeier

1. Related that the new 50th Precinct Commander Burke was once on the Vice Squad.
2. Food truck was granted a liquor license at the former site of Tavern on the Green restaurant, a first for New York.
3. The following resolution was presented for new Liquor License applications:

WHEREAS, new liquor license applicants presented information about their proposed establishments to the committee; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Bronx Community Board No. 8 approves the following **NEW APPLICATIONS** for liquor licenses:

- Hola Restaurant – 5586 Broadway
- La Tia Restaurant – 200A West 231st Street
- Gourmet Dining LLC (Manhattan College) – Thomas Hall, 4513 Manhattan College Parkway

4. Discussed the Lounge Liquor License application for renewal for the Lounge, 4685 Manhattan College Parkway reviewed by the Committee. Discrepancies on the application were noted and letters of complaints were received against the establishment from surrounding neighbors, and Brothers from Manhattan College appeared before the committee to add their voice to the complaints. The business' Principal failed to appear before the Committee and instead sent a representative who could not adequately respond to the Committees queries. Subsequent attempts to meet with the Principal were unsuccessful. Since no resolution to the problems has been forthcoming from the applicant, the Committee adopted the following resolution for presentation to the full Board to **DENY RENEWAL** of the liquor license:

WHEREAS, the Lounge, located at 4685 Manhattan College Parkway has been the subject of numerous and ongoing noise and quality of life complaints; and

WHEREAS, the applicant's current application contains numerous statements inconsistent with information the applicant provided to the Bronx Community Board No. 8's Public Safety Committee, including the absence of a kitchen and the absence of the actual license holder or identified designee on premises; and

WHEREAS, the applicant has recently been unavailable and unresponsive to board attempts to correct problems;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bronx Community Board 8, recommends that the liquor license for The Lounge not be renewed."

Vote: 40 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions

R. Abbott, S. Alexander, S. Balicer, R. Bender, S. Catechis, A. Cohen, B. Contant, A. P. Creaney, W. S. Dolny, T. Durham, R. Fanuzzi, A. G. Feldmeier, B. Fettman, S. Froot, R. Ginty, M. Ginzburg, M. Goodman, N. Graham, C. Hanley, M. Heller, M. Khury, I. Ladimer, T. Lim, R. Pochter Lowe, S. Marquez, D. McShane, C. Moerdler, D. Padernacht, J. M. Pilsner, A. Piscitelli, R. Press, J. Reyes, X. Sanchez, G. Santiago, A. A. Spett, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

Chairman introduced and welcomed new Board Member Edward Corcino as he arrived.

E. Traffic and Transportation – D. Padernacht

1. Goulden Avenue will be closed for a certain time over the summer for purposes of conducting a phase of the Croton Water Filtration plant project dealing with connections of water mains. To safely conduct the work, DEP proposes to completely close the Goulden Avenue roadway to through traffic, between approximately 1200 ft south of Sedgwick Avenue and 205th Street, diverting motorists and NYCT Bx 10 bus to Paul Avenue, then west on 205th Street to continue south on Goulden Avenue. Northbound Goulden Avenue motorists will detour east at 205th Street to Paul Avenue, then turn north to access Sedgwick Avenue. There will be limited local on-street parking and room for school bus drop-offs and parking with a turn-around for buses. 205th Street will remain fully open and Goulden Avenue south of 205th Street will remain fully open.
2. C. Moerdler announced the recent launching of Metro North Raillink bus service along the route of West 254th Street to the Hebrew Home. He offered assistance with any other transportation matters; and related that former Bronx Borough

President Fernando Ferrer has joined him on the MTA transportation Board, which affords double advocacy for the Community Board.

3. D. Padernacht welcomed the new Board members and invited them to join the Committee.

F. Youth – A. Cohen

1. Thanked Riverdale House for hosting the May meeting.
2. The next meeting will be held on June 22nd, at the Board Office, at 1:00 PM.
3. Welcomed new members and invited them to join Committee.
4. The summer Youthmarkets will open as follows: Kingsbridge Heights on July 15th, Marble Hill on July 8th. A. Cohen thanked GrowNYC for their support and Bon Secour Health Systems/Schervier for their sponsorship.

G. Aging – K. Pesce

Refer to minutes for report.

H. Budget

No report.

I. Education – S. Alexander, Vice Chair

1. Refer to minutes for report.
2. The Committee will meet on June 28th to finalize budget priorities. Cliff Stanton, Co- PA President, PS 24 will discuss possible locations for G&T middle schools.
3. JFK High School will hold a meeting regarding truncating and use of space. C. Moerdler advised of restraining order with closing of school with regard to Charter School, the Department of Education will be ordered not to make changes.

J. Economic Development – M. Khury

1. Thanked Chairman McShane for his leadership with the Board. Welcomed new Board members. Thanked Committee's Vice Chair S. Balicer and board members; congratulated S. Villaverde on his election as Chairperson of the Economic Development Committee.
2. The Committee met and finalized its budget priorities; discussed at full length the Business Survival Act. Bob Beader was guest speaker and gave entire overview; recognized various business individuals who participated throughout the year and conducted review of meetings and undertakings.

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

1. EMS presented on the stocking station. The new station in Woodlawn has four ambulances. Refer to minutes for full report.
2. Chief James Booth, EMS Division 2 advised about site at Mosholu Avenue and Broadway for re-stocking station. Hoping to get letter out from Board on this issue.
3. New prescription drug card was presented.
4. June 18th is Community Day at Leake & Watts.
5. Next meeting will be held on June 20th, Board Office, at 7:30 PM. Will finalize budget priorities and discuss restocking station.

L. Housing – T. Durham

1. Committee previously discussed illegal conversions; Mayor Bloomberg and Council Speaker Quinn recently introduced a new program to expedite inspections.
2. Marble Hill Houses has highest rate of crime; elected officials with those houses in their district will be holding a meeting to look at security cameras.
3. Committee discussed NYCHA's senior's relocation issue. C. Durham presented a resolution passed by the committee on the topic.

Amendments were offered and accepted. The following resolution was presented for a vote:

WHEREAS, The New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) provides affordable housing in a safe and secure living environment for low and moderate-income residents throughout the five boroughs; and

WHEREAS, NYCHA long term residents, age 62 or older, are downsized to smaller apartments and many are transferred to different housing complexes in different neighborhoods, and

WHEREAS, NYCHA long term residents, age 62 or older, should remain in their existing complexes, placed on a prioritized wait list in the same housing complex until smaller apartments are available; and

WHEREAS, this has a direct impact on residents living in the Bronx Community Board No. 8 area in the NYCHA Ft. Independence and Marble Hill Houses; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Bronx Community Board 8 supports long term residents age 62 and older in NYCHA complexes being placed on prioritized waiting lists in their existing complexes.

Vote: 40 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention

R. Abbott, S. Alexander, S. Balicer, R. Bender, S. Catechis, A. Cohen, B. Contant, E. Corcino, A. P. Creaney, W. S. Dolny, T. Durham, R. Fanuzzi, A. G. Feldmeier, B. Fettman, S. Froot, R. Ginty, M. Ginzburg, M. Goodman, N. Graham, C. Hanley, M. Heller, M. Khury, I. Ladimer, T. Lim, R. Pochter Lowe, S. Marquez, D. McShane, D. Padernacht, J. M. Pilsner, A. Piscitelli, R. Press, J. Reyes, X. Sanchez, G. Santiago, A. A. Spett, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

Abstention –

C. G. Moerdler

M. Land Use – C. G. Moerdler

1. The Committee will meet on June 15th. The counsel for the Bankruptcy Trustee for Delafield Estates will attend to explain what is proceeding. The meeting will be an informational session. C. G. Moerdler reviewed the long history of restoration failure and bankruptcy problems with the property.
2. C. G. Moerdler discussed the problems with Cannon Place retaining wall. There are no funds presently available to handle reconstruction. Project may start

2013. A meeting was recently convened. The Department of Transportation will conduct project.

3. Proposed development at West 262nd and Spencer Terrace will be discussed.
4. C. G. Moerdler presented a resolution authorizing the Land Use Committee to act for Board in the event matters that are time sensitive come before the Board during summer recess.

Vote: 41 in favor

In Favor –

R. Abbott, S. Alexander, S. Balicer, R. Bender, S. Catechis, A. Cohen, E. Corcino, B. Contant, A. P. Creaney, W. S. Dolny, T. Durham, R. Fanuzzi, A. G. Feldmeier, B. Fettman, S. Froot, R. Ginty, M. Ginzburg, M. Goodman, N. Graham, C. Hanley, M. Heller, M. Khury, I. Ladimer, T. Lim, R. Pochter Lowe, S. Marquez, D. McShane, C. Moerdler, D. Padernacht, J. M. Pilsner, A. Piscitelli, R. Press, J. Reyes, X. Sanchez, G. Santiago, A. A. Spett, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

Meeting adjourned 10:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,

Patricia Manning
Community Associate