

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8**

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
HELD ON NOVEMBER 12, 2013  
AT AMALGAMATED HOUSES, VLADEK HALL  
74 VAN CORTLANDT PARK SOUTH**

- PRESENT:** S. Alexander, S. Balicer, B. Bender, B. Contant, A. P. Creaney, L. Daub, M. Donato, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, A. Garbett Feldmeier, A. Fella, B. Fettman, P. Friedman, S. Froot, M. Galvin, R. Ginty, M. Heller, M. Khury, D. Kornbluh, I. Ladimer, D. Lennon, S. Marquez, C. G. Moerdler, D. Padernacht, R. Pochter-Lowe, R. Press, J. Rather, J. Reyes, X. Sanchez, G. Singleton, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, M. Zegarra-Soja
- ABSENT:** S. Catechis, M. Goodman, D. Kirksey-Floyd, T. Lim, A. Moore, P. Mullen, L. Parker, K. Pesce, J. M. Pilsner, A. Piscitelli, P. Reyes, G. Santiago, A. A. Spett, H. Young,
- STAFF:** N. Stent- District Manager  
D. Bay – Community Associate  
P. Manning – Community Associate
- GUESTS:** J. Liu – NYC Comptroller  
J. Klein – State Senator  
J. Dinowitz – Assemblyman  
A. Cohen – City Council Democratic Elect  
M. Blaustein – Office of State Senator Jeffrey Klein  
J. Cooper – Office of State Senator Jeffrey Klein  
J. Demko – Office of Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz  
J. DeSio, rep. Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.  
R. Ferrain – rep. State Senator Gustavo Rivera  
C. Rodriguez – Office of NYC Comptroller John Liu  
A. Sandler - Office of Councilman G. Oliver Koppell  
L. Acevedo - NYPL  
J. Horstman – Bronx Department of City Planning  
D.I. P. Rasa – NYPD, 50<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct  
P.O. M. Ramos – NYPD, 50<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct  
Y. Allen – In-Tech Academy  
F. Anelante – Spuyten Duyvil Homeowners Group  
M. Anelante  
J. Colon – Friends of Spuyten Duyvil  
G. Fleischman  
L. Frisch  
J. Gomez  
G. Gozmah  
C. Greene  
J. Hartman  
A. Henoch  
S. Jeselsohn – Along-The-Hudson Homeowners  
M. Lopez  
P. Moerdler  
L. Ogando  
G. Ordonez  
M. Penn

C. Portes  
A. Ramos  
J. Segura  
T. Shelton  
W. Spector  
J. Spiegel  
C. Stein  
T. Washington  
J. Watson  
E. Yaker

Chairman Fanuzzi convened the meeting at 7:35 PM.

1. Gallery Session

- A. Jodi Colon, Hudson River Greenway, expressed opposition to the plan for a “bike road” for the Greenway link along the Hudson on Palisade Avenue. Developing the link along the stretch of Palisade Avenue will entail invading the topography of rock cropping and removal of trees; and would be a zoning violation of the designated Natural Area District. She referred to Community Board 8’s 197-a plan and urged that its regulations be enforced. Ms. Colon stated that the Greenway is already linked by the existing use of the bike route connecting Manhattan and Westchester.
- B. Frank Anelante, resident along Palisade Avenue advised that he will lose his driveway if the proposed plan for linking the Hudson River Greenway is implemented. He discussed deficiencies in the study which renders it incomplete and will lead to problems. An Executive Summary of response to the plan for Greenway link was distributed. He asked that the current plan be delayed until a compromise is worked out with NYMTC (New York Metropolitan Transit Council) to address safety of pedestrians and bikers, bottlenecks at the key junctures, bucolic preservation, crossings at bridge terminus and six way intersection Kappock/Palisade Avenues, and affected homeowners. He asked for a meeting with NYMTC, Community Board 8 and residents.
- B. Bender reported that the topic of the Greenway link will be addressed at the Parks & Recreation Committee meeting on November 13, 2013.
- C. Sura Jeselsohn, Along-The-Hudson Homeowners Association, spoke in opposition to the plan for Hudson River Greenway link along Palisade Avenue. She would like to find another solution.
- D. Yvette Allen, Principal, In-Tech Academy, MS/HS 368, presented a detailed overview of the school’s curriculum, vision, after-school programs and more. She reported on honors program and many other successes of the Academy. Ms. Allen announced and invited all to their Open House on November 14, 2013, from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM.

Chairman Fanuzzi thanked Ms. Allen for hosting the Board’s Health, Hospitals and Social Services Committee’s Underage Drinking Forum at In-Tech Academy on November 18, 2013.

2. Approval of Regular Board Meeting Minutes of October 8, 2013

The minutes were approved with one abstention by M. Gavin.

## 3. Discussion of Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of November 6, 2013

- B. Bender referred to the Parks & Recreation Committee report. He corrected the next meeting date to November 13, 2013.
- R. Ginty referred to New Business, 4<sup>th</sup> bullet. She made a clarification pertaining to discussion of staff salaries advising that it is not mandatory under the Open Meetings Law to call an Executive Session to discuss staff salaries; a majority vote of the Executive Committee is required to call an Executive Session to discuss staff salaries.

## 4. Chairman welcomed and congratulated Deputy Inspector Rasa on his rank promotion from Captain and invited him to address the Board.

Deputy Inspector Rasa reported on year to date crime statistics in the 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct: murder – 2 vs 6, rape – 2 vs 8, robbery – 129 vs 126, felony assault – 130 vs 110, burglary – 123 vs 155, grand larceny – 356 vs. 347 and grand auto theft – 74 vs 82. Transit crime: 10 vs 12; NYCHA Housing 40 vs 36. Shootings- 10 (Kingsbridge community). Stolen cars- 106 (Honda Accord highest number). He proceeded to discuss crime prevention techniques. NYPD's Annual Coat Drive is underway through February. The 50<sup>th</sup> has just received 14 new officers.

## 5. Chairman welcomed New York City Comptroller John Liu and invited him to address the Board.

Comptroller Liu extended warm greetings to the Board. He discussed his tenure and accomplishments as NYC Comptroller, such as the web-based application, which can be accessed at [checkbooknyc.com](http://checkbooknyc.com), and is a key part of Comptroller Liu's commitment to financial transparency and cost savings. It allows New Yorkers to keep a close eye on government spending. The Comptroller shared stories of his family's history and reflected on fond memories of his time spent in the Board's neighboring community while attending Bronx Science High School. He complimented the Board on their voluntary performance. As he leaves office at the end of the year, he vowed to continue his presence around New York City.

Chairman Fanuzzi, as Chair of the Croton Water Monitoring Committee, extended gratitude to Comptroller Liu for his audit oversight of the Croton Water Filtration Plant costs and Department of Parks and Recreation spending.

## 6. Chairman welcomed Senator Jeffrey Klein and invited him to address the Board.

Senator Klein announced that starting January 2014 the State's budget will fund a new program "Jobs for Heroes" to benefit veterans. There will be a tax credit of \$5,000 to any employer who hires a veteran which increases to \$15,000 for hiring disabled veterans. He reviewed the success of the summer concert series which he co-sponsored with Bronx Borough President Diaz, Jr., and the Summer Movie Nights he co-sponsored with KRVCDC. These events brought increased community economic growth. With regard to the LG Tower proposed construction on the Palisade, a lawsuit is being brought and Senator Klein is writing an Amicus Brief. The Selfhelp development at 6469 Broadway has removed the Comunilife component for mentally disturbed seniors. He discussed Montefiore Hospital plans for development in South Riverdale, Senator Klein and colleagues Assemblyman Dinowitz, Councilman Koppell, and Councilman-Elect Cohen will request a meeting with Dr. Steven Safyer, President/CEO, Montefiore Hospital to discuss the plans and the impact on the community's quality of life.

Chairman Fanuzzi thanked Senator Klein for forcefully addressing the issue of the LG tower and 6469 Broadway, both areas of great interest to Community Board 8.

## 7. Chairman welcomed Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz and invited him to address the Board.

Assemblyman Dinowitz discussed Montefiore's development plans and the need for the hospital to work with the community. He explained that the Hudson River Greenway plan is far from decided and discussed the planned cutbacks for the Access-A-Ride, advising that his office will be working on the issue. The Kingsbridge Armory Ice Rink development celebration will be held on November 21, 2013 with former NY Rangers Mark Messier. He urged donations for the Annual Canned Food Drive and drop-offs can be brought to the Assemblyman's office.

C. Moerdler and B. Fettman further discussed the issue of the Access-A-Ride cutbacks including the need for the MTA to involve its clients in making decisions on provision of service.

7. Chairman welcomed and invited Councilmember-Elect Andrew Cohen former member of Community Board 8, to address the Board.

Councilmember-Elect Cohen conveyed his appreciation to the Board and that the experience he received as Board member will be carried forward. The Council transition is underway and going well and he looks forward to serving.

8. Report from the Office of the Bronx Borough President – J. DeSio

- The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Savor the Bronx Restaurant Week Kick-off was November 4th. It is a 12-day event ending on November 15th. Check for more information and participating restaurants at [www.savorthebronx.com](http://www.savorthebronx.com).
- City Planning Commission unanimously approved the ULURP application for the Kingsbridge National Ice Center project. The plan will now be presented to the Bronx Borough Board and then to the City Council for final approvals before reaching the Mayor's desk.
- Upcoming Event:  
November 21, 2013- Puerto Rican Heritage Month Celebration  
Monroe College – King Hall  
2501 Jerome Avenue  
RSVP – 718-590-3552 or email [lroldan@bronxbp.nyc.gov](mailto:lroldan@bronxbp.nyc.gov)

9. Report from the Department of City Planning – J. Horstman

No report.

10. Chairman's Report

- Chairman thanked Amalgamated Houses for their graciousness in hosting the Board meeting.
- Wished Herb Young a speedy recovery from knee surgery.
- Thanked Vice Chair Khury for chairing the October Board meeting.
- Thanked the Board members that volunteered at the Bronx Community Board 8 table at the Johnson Avenue Block Festival.
- Reiterated from the Executive Committee minutes regarding "social media." Members can send information for the Board's face book to the Board office.

P. Friedman asked for update on the submission status of missing committee minutes on the website as discussed at the Executive Committee meeting. Chairman Fanuzzi stated that this was being handled by J. Pilsner; however she was not in attendance due to illness.

11. Treasurer's Report – P. Friedman

The Board's budget is on target to meet goals for end of year.

## 12. District Manager's Report – N. Stent

The report is covered in the Executive Committee minutes. Additionally, the Board office is hosting a high school student intern from Riverdale Neighborhood House.

## 13. Committee Reports –

## A. Libraries and Cultural Affairs

No report.

## B. Parks and Recreation – B. Bender

1. The Committee met in October and the main item related to the proposed Master Plan for Van Cortlandt Park. Handouts on summary of the plan were distributed.
2. The Committee will meet on November 13, 2013. The Hudson River Greenway plan will be discussed. No vote will be taken at the meeting.
3. Seton Park has been vandalized with graffiti, and destruction of three toilets in the women's bathroom. There should be reporting of people seen in parks after closing.
4. Thanked Senator Klein and colleagues for action on the LG Tower.

C. Moerdler and L. Spalter discussed the negative "natural area" changes proposed in Riverdale Park to accommodate the Hudson River Valley Greenway.

## C. Public Safety – A. Feldmeier

1. Smart phone thefts are 100 per minute. Legislation for the implementation of a "Kill Phone Switch" is under review. The Committee will consider a resolution in support.
2. The following resolutions were presented:

- **Re: Dubai Lounge, 154-156 West 231<sup>st</sup> Street**

NOTE\*\*\* these conditions for Dubai Lounge are pending review at the 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct. The final draft will be available at the full board meeting. The Public Safety Committee wrote to the State Liquor Authority asking for a 30-day extension on their application, so that we could properly consider this establishment.

**WHEREAS**, Dubai Lounge, a local nightclub, has had problems including noise, disruptive patrons and a violent incident involving a customer and a potential customer, but

**WHEREAS**, they appeared before and cooperated with the Community Board, And following majority Public Safety Committee vote, with 6 votes to approve and 3 abstentions, and

**WHEREAS**, the 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct has reviewed this application and the conditions attached for this establishment,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Community Board 8 supports renewal of this liquor license, with the following conditions:

- 1) Print and internet ads appropriate to a family neighborhood,
- 2) Check all patrons for weapons,
- 3) Repair and maintain camera security system

- 4) Cooperate with the Community Board and Precinct to obtain a Cabaret License

Discussion ensued. Motion was called.

**Vote:** 24 in favor, 7 opposed, and 4 abstentions

In Favor –

S. Alexander, B. Bender, B. Contant, A. P. Creaney, L. Daub, M. Donato, P. Ellis, A. Garbett Feldmeier, A. Fella, M. Galvin, M. Heller, D. Kornbluh, I. Ladimer, D. Lennon, S. Marquez, D. Padernacht, R. Pochter-Lowe, R. Press, J. Rather, J. Reyes, X. Sanchez, G. Singleton, M. Wolpoff, M. Zegarra-Soja

Opposed –

R. Fanuzzi, B. Fettman, P. Friedman, R. Ginty, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, S. Villaverde

Abstentions –

S. Balicer, S. Froot, M. Khury, C. G. Moerdler

- **Re: Fenwicks Bar & Grill, 432 West 238<sup>th</sup> Street**

**WHEREAS**, Fenwick's, a neighborhood pub and sports bar, is adjacent to a local college and has had problems, but presented evidence that they have corrected or attempted to correct some of these problems, and

**WHEREAS**, they cooperated with the Community Board, and following majority Public Safety Committee vote, and

**WHEREAS**, the 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct reports improvement,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Community Board 8 supports renewal of this liquor license.

**Vote:** 34 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention

In Favor –

S. Alexander, S. Balicer, B. Bender, B. Contant, A. P. Creaney, L. Daub, M. Donato, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, A. Garbett Feldmeier, A. Fella, P. Friedman, S. Froot, M. Galvin, R. Ginty, M. Heller, M. Khury, D. Kornbluh, I. Ladimer, D. Lennon, S. Marquez, C. G. Moerdler, D. Padernacht, R. Pochter-Lowe, R. Press, J. Rather, J. Reyes, X. Sanchez, G. Singleton, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, M. Zegarra-Soja

Abstained –

B. Fettman

- **Re: Yokohama Japanese Restaurant, 438 West 238<sup>th</sup> Street**

**WHEREAS**, Yokohama Restaurant, offers Asian restaurant choices to our community, and to nearby college students, and

**WHEREAS**, they cooperated with the Community Board, and following unanimous Public Safety Committee vote, and

**WHEREAS**, the 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct reports no problems with this establishment,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Community Board 8 supports renewal of this liquor license.

**Vote:** 34 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention

In Favor –

S. Alexander, S. Balicer, B. Bender, B. Contant, A. P. Creaney, L. Daub, M. Donato, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, A. Garbett Feldmeier, A. Fella, B. Fettman, P. Friedman, S. Froot, M. Galvin, R. Ginty, M. Heller, M. Khury, D. Kornbluh, I. Ladimer, D. Lennon, S. Marquez, D. Padernacht, R. Pochter-Lowe, R. Press, J. Rather, J. Reyes, X. Sanchez, G. Singleton, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, M. Zegarra-Soja

Abstention –

C. G. Moerdler

- **Re: The Local, 171 West 231<sup>st</sup> Street**

**WHEREAS**, The Local presented evidence in this application for a new license that they plan a sports bar atmosphere for our community with televised events and inform us that there will be no DJ, a new camera/security system and that they already use ID scanners, and

**WHEREAS**, they cooperated with the Community Board, and following unanimous Public Safety Committee vote, and

**WHEREAS**, the 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct anticipates no problems with this establishment,  
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Community Board 8 supports renewal of this liquor license.

**Vote:** 34 in favor, 1 opposed, and 0 abstentions

In Favor –

S. Alexander, S. Balicer, B. Bender, B. Contant, A. P. Creaney, L. Daub, M. Donato, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, A. Garbett Feldmeier, A. Fella, B. Fettman, P. Friedman, S. Froot, M. Galvin, R. Ginty, M. Heller, M. Khury, D. Kornbluh, I. Ladimer, D. Lennon, S. Marquez, D. Padernacht, R. Pochter-Lowe, R. Press, J. Rather, J. Reyes, X. Sanchez, G. Singleton, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, M. Zegarra-Soja

Opposed -

C. G. Moerdler

## D. Traffic and Transportation – D. Padernacht

## 1. The following resolution was presented:

**WHEREAS**, testimony has been presented to the Traffic and Transportation Committee of Bronx Community Board 8 regarding safety concerns on West 259<sup>th</sup> street between Netherland Avenue and Riverdale Avenue, and

**WHEREAS**, with regard to this street, testimony has been presented that this street is on a hill where a winding curve leads to the intersection of Netherland Avenue and West 259<sup>th</sup> Street and that cars traveling eastbound on West 259<sup>th</sup> Street may not have adequate sight to view individuals crossing the street, and that students from the Salanter Akiba Riverdale Academy (SAR Academy) frequently cross the street to patronize neighboring stores; and

**WHEREAS**, the cooperative buildings known as Netherland Gardens and Skyview support this traffic calming measure;

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that Bronx Community Board No. 8 requests that a “Stop” sign and crosswalk be placed at the intersection of Netherland Avenue and West 259<sup>th</sup> Street in the eastbound and westbound directions and that a “Stop Ahead” sign be placed in the eastbound direction prior to the Intersection

**Vote:** 34 in favor, 1 opposed, and 0 abstentions

In Favor –

S. Alexander, S. Balicer, B. Bender, B. Contant, A. P. Creaney, L. Daub, M. Donato, P. Ellis, R. Fanuzzi, A. Garbett Feldmeier, A. Fella, B. Fettman, P. Friedman, S. Froot, M. Galvin, R. Ginty, M. Khury, D. Kornbluh, I. Ladimer, D. Lennon, S. Marquez, C. G. Moerdler, D. Padernacht, R. Pochter-Lowe, R. Press, J. Rather, J. Reyes, X. Sanchez, G. Singleton, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, M. Zegarra-Soja

Opposed –

M. Heller

2. The Committee will hold a joint meeting with Environment and Sanitation Committee on November 19, 2013 to address Con Edison’s Storm System Fortification project which is already in progress. The meeting will be held at the Riverdale YM/YWHA at 7:30 PM.
3. Another agenda item is the review of an application for a newsstand at the southwest corner of West 231<sup>st</sup> Street and Broadway. It was noted that another newsstand is already in place on the northwest corner of West 231<sup>st</sup> Broadway. TLC will also present to the Committee on the new Borough Taxi initiative.
4. D. Padernacht invited B. Fettman to present to the Committee regarding Access-A-Ride.

## E. Youth

A. Fella reported on behalf of the Committee Chair.

1. The Committee will meet on November 18, 2013, at the Board Office, at 1:00 PM.
2. An Award for “Come Back Kid” is being planned.
3. NY Yankee Leadership Awards nominations were received.

4. Fort Independence Community Center is possibly closing.
5. The Bronx Youth Poetry Slam video has gone viral with 1 million hits.
6. A Youth Job Fair is being planned.
7. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Ice Skating Youth event at Van Cortlandt Ice Rink is coming up.

F. Aging

No report.

G. Budget – B. Contant

The Budget Priorities for FY 2015 were submitted ahead of the deadline.

H. Economic Development – S. Villaverde

1. Tenants for Riverdale Plaza Mall will include TJ Max, Sports Authority and Aldi's supermarket. Resumes are being accepted. Thanked Vice Chair M. Khury and P. Ellis for their work on the job resume bank.
2. Thanked Board members and elected officials for support of the Johnson Avenue Block Festival.
3. Thanked R. Ginty for her efforts on the issue concerning the Department of Consumer Affairs violations.
4. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on December 3, 2013.
5. M. Khury gave special recognition of the volunteer efforts of A. Fella, M. Heller, L. Daub and J. Rather at the Johnson Avenue Block Festival community board table.

I. Education – S. Alexander

1. Refer to minutes for report.
2. Noted news articles concerning Charter Schools rent, and core curriculum.
3. Next Committee meeting will be held on November 26, 2013, Board office, at 7:30 PM.

J. Environment and Sanitation – S. Marquez

1. Refer to minutes for report.
2. The Committee will meet jointly with Traffic and Transportation on November 19, 2013, at the Riverdale YM/YWHA, at 7:30 PM.

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

1. Refer to minutes for report.
2. The Committee had a presentation from an animal rescue group. There are no animal shelters in the Bronx or Queens.
3. Announced Underage Drinking Forum being held on November 18, 2013, at In-Tech Academy, from 7:00 PM to 9:15 PM. There will be a distinguished panelists line-up; and the film "Why We Drink" will be shown. S. Froot urged everyone to get the word out for the event.

L. Housing – S. Balicer

The recent public hearing on Mitchell Llama Housing rule changes attracted thousands to the hearing. S. Balicer will submit full report. There are 12 Mitchell Llama Housing complexes in Community Board 8. He will hold a Committee meeting at one of them.

M. Land Use – C. Moerdler

1. The Land Use Committee is dealing with three controversial developments: Selfhelp senior residence at 6469 Broadway; Montefiore medical facility at 3644 Oxford Avenue, 3741 and 3755 Riverdale Avenue; and Stagg Group residential and community facility at 5959 Broadway.
2. Discussed the Land Use Committee meeting held on November 7, 2013. C. Moerdler thanked R. Press for taking the minutes. The agenda item for Montefiore garnered a huge outpouring of community residents. He thanked M. Wolpoff for chairing Montefiore's presentation and discussion. Montefiore is building "As of Right." Its clinic will offer all services and there will be a pharmacy and an Urgent Care component.
3. Montefiore agreed to return to the Committee within 30 days; and they will be asked to attend the next Committee meeting on December 9, 2013. A separate meeting on rezoning South Riverdale will be held at 6:30 PM prior to the full Land Use meeting. Planners and other with strong zoning interest are asked to attend.
4. Stagg stated there is no decision regarding plans for the "community center" at 5959 Broadway.

N. Law, Rules and Ethics – R. Ginty

Refer to minutes.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Manning  
Community Associate

Reviewed by,

Robert Fanuzzi  
Chair