

**BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8**

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 9, 2011  
AT THE RIVERDALE TEMPLE,  
4545 INDEPENDENCE AVENUE**

- PRESENT:** R. Abbott, S. Alexander, R. Bender, A. Cohen, A. P. Creaney, T. Durham, R. Fanuzzi, A. G. Feldmeier, D. Kirksey-Floyd, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, N. Graham, C. Hanley, M. Heller, M. Khury, I. Ladimer, R. Pochter Lowe, S. Marquez, C. G. Moerdler, A. Moore, P. Mullen, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, J. Pilsner, A. Piscitelli, R. Press, J. Reyes, P. Reyes, G. Santiago, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, A. A. Spett, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, H. Young
- ABSENT:** S. Balicer, D. Bowden, S. Catechis, B. Contant, E. Corcino, B. Fettman, P. Friedman, S. Froot, M. Ginzburg, G. O. Koppell, T. Lim, D. McShane
- STAFF:** N. Stent – District Manager  
D. Bay – Community Associate  
P. Manning – Community Associate
- GUESTS:** J. Dinowitz – Assemblyman  
J. DeSio - rep. Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.  
R. Fedderman – rep. Congressman Eliot Engel  
R. Martos – Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz' Office  
A. Sandler – Councilman G. Oliver Koppell's Office  
J. Sonett – rep. State Senator Adriano Espaillat  
Capt. K. Burke – 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct, NYPD  
P.O. M. Ramos – 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct, NYPD  
L. Acevedo – NY Public Library  
A. Assal  
F. Barret  
H. Barret – Memorial Grove  
J. Benfatti – Riverdale Yonkers Ethical Culture  
J. Bohn  
T. Conaughton  
K. Degitol  
D. Dennehy – Ancient Order of Hibernians National Board  
M. Durkan  
P. Ellis  
M. Galvin  
M. Galvin, Jr.  
I. Goodman – NYPD GFL  
J. E. Gordon  
K. Green  
S. Heuer  
K. Kennedy  
T. Kenny  
A. Kilcommos  
D. Kornblu  
M. Lyons  
P. Moerdler  
C. O'Brien

T. Shelton – KRVC  
K. Tierney  
A. Vitale – Hope for the Friendless  
T. A. Young  
A. Wisnieski – Riverdale Press

Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM.

#### Gallery Session

- A. Tracy Shelton, KRVC informed that the Riverdale Arts Festival turned out very well. Over 1000 attendees with 70 businesses represented. A stage with live music was part of the festivities. Planning to have more events in other parts of the district, and there is consideration for an annual event of the Riverdale Festival; KRVC's Holiday Shopping Shuttle Hot Stops will take place on November 20<sup>th</sup>, from 12-4 pm. The route will begin in Skyview Shopping Center where there will be a free shuttle bus. Flyers were made available. For more information visit [www.krvcdc.org](http://www.krvcdc.org).
- B. John Benfatti, Riverdale Yonkers Ethical Culture, (RYEC) thanked the Board for its support. He invited the members to attend a platform held every Sunday at RYEC on social topics. The November 20<sup>th</sup> platform is Outreach and Empowerment: The Mission of Community Board 8 with Robert Fanuzzi, Chairperson and Maria Khury Vice Chairperson, Bronx Community Board will present; Mr. Benfatti related hopes of an opportunity to host a meeting of the Board at RYEC.
- C. A. Assal discussed the illegal tire flat fix shop operating on the premises of the Lukoil Gas station, 6571 Broadway, at West 260<sup>th</sup> Street. He described the hazardous conditions with numerous tires stored, noise day and night, and other environmental and safety issues at this location. He asked that the Board look into the matter.

Chairman Fanuzzi assured Mr. Assal that the Board had been working diligently on the issue with the Departments of Buildings and Fire. Both agencies have issued violations and the Board is checking compliance regularly.

- D. Herb Barret invited all to the Veterans Memorial ceremony at Memorial Grove on Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, in Van Cortlandt Park.
  - E. A. Vitale, Hope for the Friendless, discussed his initiative to try to raise money for the unemployed through various fundraising efforts. He is seeking assistance with recommendations to promote this worthy cause.
1. Approval of Regular Board Meeting Minutes of October 11, 2011

Vice Chair Khury corrected the meeting date to reflect that the meeting was held on October 11<sup>th</sup>, and not October 4<sup>th</sup>.

The minutes were unanimously approved as corrected.

2. Discussion of the Executive Board Committee Minutes of November 2, 2011

R. Press inquired as to whether D. McShane had been present at the meeting with respect to the last item of the Chairman's report. Chairman clarified that he was not present.

The minutes were adopted with the clarification noted.

3. Chairman invited Captain Kevin Burke of the 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct to address the Board. Captain Burke announced the Police Department's Annual Coat Drive kicked off November 1<sup>st</sup> at the 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct. He advised of two concerns: burglaries increased by 25%; and robberies increased with I-phones being targeted. Vice Chair Maria Khury raised a question about gang activity in Marble Hill. The Captain responded that the area was under surveillance.

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

- Board Membership applications are now being accepted. Board membership renewal applications will be sent during the month of November. Anyone wishing to get their application in earlier may download the application from the Borough President's website.
- Borough President Diaz, Jr. is encouraging enforcement of the Pooper Scooper Law. Hot spot complaints should be reported to his office or to 311.
- Bronx Restaurant Week is receiving a good response.

5. Chairman invited Assemblyman Dinowitz to address the Board.

Assemblyman Dinowitz reported that complaints had been received concerning long waits for the No. 7 and 10 MTA buses on the Riverdale route. He asked the Board to look into the problem; the Assemblyman's annual Food Drive has started. Food donations are needed; discussed the Post Office proposal for closing the Spuyten Duyvil and Fieldston sub-stations, and in particular the very late notification that was given for the local hearing on the Fieldston station. He urged attendance at the hearing for the Spuyten Duyvil station on November 10<sup>th</sup>, at Saint Gabriel's School, at 6:00 PM.

C. Moerdler added that the MTA was already implementing additional buses to the Riverdale route to reduce the wait times.

6. Chairman's Report

- Chairman stated that any press inquiries should be emailed to the board office and will be coordinated with the Board Chair and committee chair for response. Committee members should not respond to press inquiries.
- Chairman reminded members that only board business and board related activities should be conducted with the board office and board members. If there is a question of what constitutes board business, please submit those inquiries to the board office for a determination by the Chair.
- Board members who are not registered members of a committee are not permitted to vote on a resolution of that committee at a committee meeting, however, their vote will be recorded.
- Chairman reminded Committee Chairs to ask committee members to report from respective neighborhoods as a way to promote participation.

- Chairman announced that that D. McShane had agreed to work as the Board's technology person.

#### 7. Treasurer's Report

Chairman reported that the Board's budget had been distributed.

#### 8. District Manager's Report

- Bronx Community Board 8 in collaboration with Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. will be offering free Flu Shots provided by the Visiting Nurses Service of NY on November 21st at the St. Stephens United Methodist Church from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.
- N. Stent met with Department of Design and Construction to discuss the construction of the Bailey Place retaining wall and Bailey Avenue water main projects. A report had been provided to D. Padernacht.
- Community Board 8's Youthmarkets in Marble Hill and Kingsbridge Heights closed for the season on October 28<sup>th</sup>. N. Stent made rounds to both sites to thank Bon Secour leader Sarah Shaikh; the GrowNYC market managers and the youth employed by Riverdale Neighborhood House and Kingsbridge Heights Community Center for their hard work in making the markets a success this summer. The markets will return in July 2012.
- N. Stent attended the community Open House at RKA MS/HS 141 along with Education Chair S. Alexander. The event was well attended.
- N. Stent organized a meeting with the principle of MS/HS 368 with Education Chair S. Alexander. It was an informative discussion.
- The District Manager reported on the snow storm of 2011 which caused great damage to the community with trees falling on electric wires. There were over 70,000 in Westchester without electricity, 7,000 in the Bronx of which 2,700 were in Riverdale. Half of those were concentrated in the north Fieldston area with the rest scattered throughout the community board. Con Edison immediately sent emergency information to the board office the day of the storm. N. Stent participated in a conference call the evening of the snow storm with Con Edison to receive an update on the community status, the plan to work on electricity and provided a report to Chairman Fanuzzi. She also toured the community to assess damage and report problems of down trees and wires. Con Edison provided regular updates throughout the emergency. The Departments of Parks and Department of Transportation are to be commended for their great response and attention to problems.
- The Board Office is hosting a new high school intern funded through Riverdale Neighborhood House (RNH). This intern is a sophomore at RKA MS/HS 141. This marks the sixth intern received from RNH. The position will be held through February 2012.

#### 9. Committee Reports

##### A. Parks and Recreation – B. Bender

1. State approval has been granted for the Historic designation of the Bell Tower Memorial and Saint Stephens United Methodist Church.
2. The Committee held its meeting at Schervier Apartments to accommodate discussion on the issues of Seton Park rehabilitation.

3. Encouraged attendance for Memorial Grove Veterans program on November 13<sup>th</sup>.
4. The Committee's next meeting will be held on the fifth Wednesday, November 30<sup>th</sup> due to Thanksgiving eve falling on the regular meeting night. The agenda will include discussion on a skate park in the board area.
5. B. Bender repeated the motion from October's Board meeting to add a resolution to the Board agenda to allow for a full Board vote at a public hearing of the Parks Committee pertaining to the Ice Skating rink.

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

In Favor –

R. Abbott, S. Alexander, R. Bender, A. Cohen, A. P. Creaney, T. Durham, R. Fanuzzi, A. G. Feldmeier, D. Kirksey-Floyd, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, N. Graham, C. Hanley, M. Heller, M. Khury, I. Ladimer, R. Pochter Lowe, S. Marquez, C. G. Moerdler, P. Mullen, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, J. Pilsner, A. Piscitelli, J. Reyes, P. Reyes, G. Santiago, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, A. A. Spett, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

Abstention –

R. Press

The following resolution was presented:

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

**WHEREAS**, the Parks Department may certify a proposal for the installation of the skating rink prior to the date of a full Board meeting; and

**WHEREAS**, the Franchise and Concessions Review Committee (FCRC), which has scheduled a meeting on December 12th to hear public testimony on proposals, possibly including the proposal for the Van Cortlandt Park ice skating rink; Now therefore,

**WHEREAS**, Bronx Community Board No. 8 under Bylaws, Article IV, Section 3 authorizes "that a special meeting may be called upon at least two (2) days notice. The notice of any meeting called on less than ten (10) days' notice shall... specify the matter requiring short notice and a written statement from the Chairperson that time does not allow for ten (10) days' notice; at any such meeting, only the matter specified in the notice of meeting may be acted upon"; and

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board under Bylaws, Article VII, Section 2 authorizes the Parks and Recreation Committee to hold a public hearing which will be held on December 6, 2011 before the scheduled FCRC 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 represent 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 and Recreation Committee members in attendance at that meeting; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that for the Parks & Recreation Committee meeting, all Bronx Community Board No. 8 members shall be invited and all members in attendance shall be given voting privileges on this issue as a member of the Parks and Recreation Committee.

Following discussion, the vote resulted in 35 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

In Favor –

R. Abbott, S. Alexander, R. Bender, A. Cohen, A. P. Creaney, T. Durham, R. Fanuzzi, A. G. Feldmeier, D. Kirksey-Floyd, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, N. Graham, C. Hanley, M. Heller, M. Khury, I. Ladimer, R. Pochter Lowe, S. Marquez, C. G. Moerdler, P. Mullen, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, J. Pilsner, A. Piscitelli, R. Press, J. Reyes, P. Reyes, G. Santiago, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, A. A. Spett, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

B. Traffic and Transportation – D. Padernacht

1. Bike racks have been installed on obsolete parking meter poles along Johnson Avenue.
2. Before presenting a resolution for the Street Naming of Frank Durkan, D. Padernacht gave an overview of Frank Durkan's lifelong work that involved many worthy causes and humanitarian efforts.

The following resolution was presented for proposal for Street Name Addition of Tibbett Avenue from West 240<sup>th</sup> Street to West 238<sup>th</sup> Street to Frank Durkan Way:

**WHEREAS**, Frank Durkan died on November 16, 2006 and this resolution is brought more than two years after his death; and

**WHEREAS**, Frank Durkan has been nominated for the honor of this proposed street change by the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America, Inc., the Gaelic Athletic Association of Greater New York, and Emerald Isle Immigration Center, which are three community organizations that are active in Bronx Community Board 8 and as such, are on the list required to be kept by Bronx Community Board No. 8 under the new City Charter; and

**WHEREAS**, the evidence and testimony presented to Bronx Community Board No. 8 has demonstrated that Frank Durkan has benefited a cross-section of Bronx Community Board No. 8 and the Borough of the Bronx; specifically that Frank Durkan, an attorney, played several key roles in Gaelic Park, a prominent park within the community board that has not only been the location of Gaelic Athletic Games, but a place of support for many Irish immigrants coming to this community board and New York City at large, and that these roles included served as pro bono counsel to Gaelic Park and playing large role in the park's functions; and

**WHEREAS**, Frank Durkan was a leader to the Irish Community in Riverdale and throughout the United States, advocating for civil rights and giving several speeches at Gaelic Park which were the catalyst for civil rights support amongst Irish Americans across the country. Durkan also provided assistance, direction and pro-bono legal services on a personal level to many families that emigrated to Riverdale from Ireland; and

**WHEREAS**, this street has a specific connection to the life Frank Durkan, as it is the street where Gaelic Park is located; and

**WHEREAS**, the name change will not engender confusion as there are no other streets with similar name in the vicinity; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Tibbett Avenue between West 240<sup>th</sup> Street to West 238<sup>th</sup> Street shall be renamed to add the name Frank Durkan Way.

Vote: 36 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions

In Favor –

R. Abbott, S. Alexander, R. Bender, A. Cohen, A. P. Creaney, T. Durham, R. Fanuzzi, A. G. Feldmeier, D. Kirksey-Floyd, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, N. Graham, C. Hanley, M. Heller, M. Khury, I. Ladimer, R. Pochter Lowe, S. Marquez, C. G. Moerdler, A. Moore, P. Mullen, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, J. Pilsner, A. Piscitelli, R. Press, J. Reyes, P. Reyes, G. Santiago, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, A. A. Spett, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

C. Public Safety – A. G. Feldmeier

1. The new Winners Restaurant and Lounge Bar at 6697 Broadway recently received six summonses from the 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct; the bar has notified the Board of its liquor license renewal under the former operating name of Serenity Lounge. The application will be reviewed at the next Public Safety Committee meeting.
2. Fenwick's Bar, 432 West 238<sup>th</sup> Street recently received three summonses from the 50<sup>th</sup> Precinct.
3. The Committee is looking into ways to become better prepared in its review of liquor license and may consider the practice of a questionnaire to be completed by the applicants.

D. Youth – A. Cohen

The Committee's next meeting will be held on November 30<sup>th</sup>, at the Riverdale YM/YWHA, at 1:00 PM.

E. Aging – K. Pesce

1. Investigating program for Seniors Assisting Seniors.
2. The next Committee meeting will be held on November 22<sup>nd</sup> at Methodist Church Home for the Aged, at 3:30 PM.

F. Budget

No report.

G. Education – S. Alexander

1. Refer to minutes of committee meeting of October 25, 2011.
2. S. Alexander along with N. Stent, District Manager attended the open house community event at RKA MS/HS 141. It was interesting and impressive. The Principal promised to attend a future Education Committee meeting.
3. S. Alexander along with N. Stent, District Manager met with the Principal of MS/HS 368 and took a tour of the school. The principal informed them that the lottery system for students seats that were supposed to be in place to feeder school PS 7 (25 students in MS368/25 students in JHS 141) did not work. PS 7 students were given a choice of middle schools on the application, contrary to the agreement, all students chose JHS 141. Therefore, MS 368 became a magnet school.

H. Economic Development – S. Villaverde

1. The Business Census Workshop was held at the Kingsbridge Library. It was well attended and provided great information and resources.
2. The next meeting will be held on December 1<sup>st</sup>.

I. Environment and Sanitation – R. Ginty

The Committee will meet on November 16<sup>th</sup>, at Riverdale Mental Health Association, at 7:00 PM. A speaker from the Department of Sanitation will discuss the Public Space Recycling Program.

J. Health, Hospitals and Social Services -

M. Heller, Vice Committee Chair reported.

1. The Committee met at Saint Stephens United Methodist Church and the space was comfortable and well suited for meetings. There were speakers from Bronx Health Reach continuing the discussion about “health equity” legislation; and Jacobi Medical Center regarding the NIH ARRA sponsored asthma study being conducted at the Center. They are seeking participants for the study enrollment of 150 adult and pediatric patients.
2. The Fire Department responded to the request for an additional restocking station to be located in Van Cortlandt Park which stated that the request requires further review in the light of the current fiscal restraints, however the review will continue throughout the fiscal year.
3. The Committee is continuing its search for a health van.

K. Housing – T. Durham

1. The Committee will meet on November 28<sup>th</sup>, at the Board Office, at 7:30 PM.
2. Discussion will continue on the Mayor’s mandated fuel conversion. The Committee is looking into setting up a special meeting forum in December involving Con Ed and city government for the purpose of gathering information. The traffic impact component will be addressed as well.

## L. Land Use – C. Moerdler

1. The following resolution was presented:

**RESOLVED**, Community Board No. 8 Bronx approves Landmarks Preservation Commission Docket No. 12-4043 – Block 5939, Lot 442, 5251 Independence Avenue, Riverdale Historic District - A freestanding Italianate style house built in 1853 with neo-Classical style modifications and additions application to alter windows on the rear façade.

Vote: 36 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions

In Favor –

R. Abbott, S. Alexander, R. Bender, A. Cohen, A. P. Creaney, T. Durham, R. Fanuzzi, A. G. Feldmeier, D. Kirksey-Floyd, R. Ginty, M. Goodman, N. Graham, C. Hanley, M. Heller, M. Khury, I. Ladimer, R. Pochter Lowe, S. Marquez, C. G. Moerdler, A. Moore, P. Mullen, D. Padernacht, L. Parker, K. Pesce, J. Pilsner, A. Piscitelli, R. Press, J. Reyes, P. Reyes, G. Santiago, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, A. A. Spett, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

2. Compliance to tree plantings and matters concerning refuse collection at Henry Ittleson Center for Child Research was discussed.
3. Issues brought by neighbors regarding SAR High School were discussed and there will be further follow-up at the December Land Use meeting.
4. C. Moerdler discussed the poor condition of the Delafield Estates property grounds. He asked Board members to visit the site.
5. Word was received from NYC Housing Development Corporation (HDC) of its intent not to approve the development application for 3469 Cannon Place. The retaining wall at the property is in extreme disrepair and is not proposed for repair until 2013 according to a letter provided to HDC. D. Padernacht will check the latter information as it is his understanding that the wall would be repaired in 2012.
6. The Land Use Committee's next meeting will be held on December 5<sup>th</sup>. Location to be announced.

## M. Law, Rules and Ethics – I. Ladimer

1. Discussed the Committee minutes and positions adopted amongst the members which do not require any changes to the Board's bylaws.
2. I. Ladimer urged all members of the Board to become familiar with the bylaws.
3. Explained that the Committee is engaged in formulating guidelines for fair and effective nominations, elections and committee voting procedures in accord with Board Bylaws, good practice and experience. The Committee determines its own procedures for meeting its responsibility. Instructions for nominating candidates for positions of officer and chair of committees were proposed: Officers- A member of the nominating committee may not be nominated by the committee for a position of officer. This provision is intended to assure impartiality on behalf of a Committee member; Committee Chairs - A member of the Nominating Committee under consideration for a committee chair shall recuse himself or herself from discussion or vote if there is another candidate.

4. I. Ladimer will represent the Board at meetings on Civics held by State Senator Gustavo Rivera.

N. Libraries and Cultural Affairs – R. Abbott

The committee met jointly with Education in October. Minutes are reflective.

Meeting adjourned 9:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Manning  
Community Associate