

BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
HELD ON MARCH 9, 2010 AT
MANHATTANVILLE HEALTH CARE CENTER
311 WEST 231ST STREET**

- PRESENT:** R. Abbott, S. Alexander, S. Balicer, B. Bender, A. P. Cassino, A. Cohen, A. Creaney, W. S. Dolny, T. C. Durham, R. Fanuzzi, B. Feinberg, A. G. Feldmeier, B. Fettman, P. Friedman, S. Froot, R. Ginty, A. Goldman, J. Goris, M. Khury, G. O. Koppell, I. Ladimer, Y. Levy, S. Marquez, D. McShane, K. O'Brien, D. Padernacht, K. Pesce, J. Pilsner, S. Scheinbach, L. Spalter, I. W. Stone, B. Trebach, S. Villaverde, M. Wolpoff, H. Young
- ABSENT:** D. Bowden, A. Fana, T. Feerick, T. Giallorenzi, A. Goldman, V. Gray, B. Maybury, C. Moerdler, J. O'Reilly, J. Reyes
- STAFF:** N. Stent – District Manager, CB 8
D. Bay – Community Associate, CB 8
P. Manning – Community Associate, CB 8
- GUESTS:** L. Cohen – rep. State Senator Jeffrey Klein
J. DeSio – representing Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.
R. Fedderman - rep. Congressman Eliot Engel
M. Gary – rep. State Senator Pedro Espada
J. Kim – rep. State Senator Eric Schneiderman
R. Martos - Office of Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz
A. McLaren – Office of Councilman G. Oliver Koppell
C. McShane – representing Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.
Z. Myrie – rep. Councilman Fernando Cabrera
A. Sandler - Office of Councilman G. Oliver Koppell
A. Applebaum – Riverdale Press
D. Bernstein
L. Cruz
N. Danyluk - NYC Department of City Planning
C. Decker
G. Feliciano
Y. Gassman
C. M. Giove – Riverdale Review
J. E. Gordon
C. Kazechis
H. Kirby
Capt. A. Lindquist – 50th Pct.
R. Lucas
J. Ortiz
R. Press – Bronx News
P.O. M. Ramos – 50th Pct.
E. Ramirez
A. Riviuccio – Northwest Bronx Democrats
G. Santiago
S. Spielberg
E. Sudbrock
T. Tureski – NY Public Library

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

Gallery Session:

- A. Joyce Pilsner announced the 50th year anniversary of the Riverdale Mental Health Association (RMHA) serving Community District 8. RMHA will host a Free Educational Event on "Healing Individuals & Strengthening Communities: Maintaining Mental Health & Well-Being throughout the Life Cycle" April 18th, 2010, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM at Riverdale YM-WHA, 5625 Arlington Avenue. The keynote speaker will be Carol Bernstein, MD, President-Elect, American Psychiatric Association. To RSVP or receive additional information send email to alange@rmha.org.
- B. Michael Gary representing State Senator Pedro Espada, acknowledged board member Anthony P. Cassino's appointment to the Mayor's Charter Revision Commission. He announced that Senator Espada will hold a special celebration of Women History Month to honor women of distinction and asked for up to three recommendations of women serving the community. Submission can go to Shawn Roseburg at Roseburg@senate.state.ny.us by March 12th. The Senator will hold a virtual Town Hall Meeting on the Budget on March 21st, at 7:00 PM. To participate visit <http://www.nysenate.gov/espadabudgettownhall>. The Senator has introduced legislation for rent assistance to provide relief for 300,000 rent-stabilized apartments. Any housing issues can be referred to staff attorney Alexander Fear who is an expert with matters dealing with landlord and tenant disputes.
- C. Eleanore Sudbrock discussed the longstanding problems with accidents along Broadway from West 251st to West 242nd Streets and the recent traffic accident involving two female pedestrians who were struck at Broadway near West 251st Street. She advised of a petition being circulated in support of installation of a traffic light along that corridor, and asked for the Board's support.

Chairman McShane referred the matter to the Traffic and Transportation Committee.

- D. Robert Press, Bronx News, reviewed the process for the CENSUS count and spoke about the necessity of securing an accurate count to ensure New York City receives its fair share in funding. He noted the short form has only 10 questions. Mr. Press distributed large posters relative to the CENSUS.
1. Approval of Regular Board Meeting Minutes of February 9, 2010
The minutes were approved unanimously.
 2. Discussion of Executive Board Committee Meeting Minutes of March 3, 2010
The minutes were accepted as written.
 3. Chairman invited Captain Lindquist to address the Board.

Captain Lindquist reported on the rash of recent homicides in Marble Hill of two stabbings, one shooting. Arrests were made in all cases; Grand larceny is down along with Grand auto larceny; and distributed CENSUS information posters. Letter has been sent to the Department of Transportation from the 50th Precinct requesting a crosswalk and traffic signal on the stretch of Broadway between West 242 and 251st Streets.
 4. Chairman invited Councilman Koppell to address the Board.

Councilman Koppell reported that Budget sessions have just begun in the Council and that he has raised the issue of budget cuts to community boards, however, he is not pleased with the response. Reports indicate a 4% cut to mental health contracts. The City's overall budget will have year- end surplus. State cuts of general revenue will have an impact on the city budget. The Councilman stated strong opposition to tax increases; cuts to student free Metro cards and cuts to Access-A-Ride. He supports supportive housing at 3469 Cannon Place, and urges Community Board 8 to negotiate.

5. Chairman's Report

- Congratulated Board Member Anthony Cassino on his appointment to the Mayor's Charter Revision Commission.
- Announced his chairmanship of the Croton Water Filtration Monitoring Committee for the remainder of the year term.
- A report from the Department of Environmental Protection is forthcoming regarding the decision on removal of barriers for access to the Jerome Park Reservoir.
- Chairman informed that notice was received March 8, 2010 from the Office of Management and Budget for submission by March 22nd of the Board's plan on the mayoral budget cuts for FY2011. A meeting of the full Board for an Executive Session will be held on March 16th for a review of the officers' response. P. Friedman, Treasurer, inquired about the timeframe for submission of plan for FY2010 budget cuts of 4% or \$9,800. Chairman advised that OMB had not asked for a proposal on the FY2010 budget cuts.

6. Department of City Planning – N. Danyluk

- No new material for Delafield Estates application has been received following conference call from the Department to applicant.
- The Department is reviewing an application for 4673 Delafield Avenue in the Natural Area District for garden work involving grade change. It should be referred to Board shortly for a 60 day review period.

7. Report from the Office of the Borough President – C. McShane

- Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. delivered his first State of the Borough Address in which he announced the formation of a Kingsbridge Armory Task Force; reiterated his commitment to bring a hotel to the Bronx; discussed his push to develop a "green" economy in the Bronx in relationship to the federal grant for Consortium for Workers Education training for Bronx residents; and the development of affordable housing, and more.
- Marlene Cintron was selected to serve as the new President of the Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation, The Bronx Empowerment Zone.
- The Office of Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. has unveiled its newly redesigned website – www.bronxboropres.nyc.gov. It features a layout that is easy to read and navigate, contains information relevant to the Bronx while updating the public on the Borough President's activities. Expanded sections include Health and Education information tailored to the Bronx.
- On the Mayor's Charter Revision Commission announcement, Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. commented that he looks forward to working with the commission to ensure that Bronx issues are addressed.
- Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. advised of his concerns on the findings of the 2010 County Health Rankings report which shows the Bronx ranked last amongst

62 counties in New York State, on both overall Health Outcomes and Health Factors, specifically on Social and Economic Factors. The Borough President is focused on education and advocacy for health awareness.

- Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. will sponsor a Women's History Month celebration on March 18th, at 9:30 A.M., at F&J Pine Tavern, with guest speaker Lisa Evers of Fox 5 News. RSVP 718-590-5666.

8. Committee Reports

A. Environment and Sanitation – S. Scheinbach

State Senator Tom Duane, 44th District, Brooklyn, and Assemblyman James Brennan, 29th District, New York City, have introduced bills respectively in the Houses to ban gas drilling in New York State watershed and within five miles of the water supply for a period of two years to allow for further study.

B. Health, Hospitals and Social Services – M. Khury

1. Referred to Committee minutes.
2. Riverdale Mental Health Association will present to the Committee on March 15th.

C. Housing – T. Durham

1. Vacate order was served on 2807 Webb Avenue for illegal apartment in cellar.
2. Discussed federal ruling concerning closing of institutional housing of individuals with mental disabilities, and transitioning to group and regular housing.
3. NYC Housing Authority funding is imperiled.
4. Councilman Koppell expanded on the Federal ruling which involves closing 4,500 "Adult Homes" throughout the State.

D. Land Use

Chairman McShane reported that a meeting will be held on April 8th and will focus on proposed supportive housing at 3469 Cannon Place. Location to be announced.

E. Law, Rules and Ethics – I. Ladimer

The Committee will continue to consider organization and management issues. Background information on certain issues, resolutions and other data will be archived in the Board Office.

F. Libraries and Cultural Affairs – R. Abbott

No March meeting. Next meeting will be on April 5th.

G. Parks and Recreation – B. Bender

Refer to minutes. The next meeting will be held March 24th, Board Office, 7:00 PM.

H. Public Safety – A. G. Feldmeier

Refer to minutes. The next meeting is April 18th, 50th Precinct, at an earlier time **7:00 PM.**

I. Traffic and Transportation – A. Cassino

1. Phase 2 Alternate Side Parking regulations for reduced days and hours east of Broadway will go into effect March 22, 2010.
2. Some of the dismantled parking meter poles on Johnson Avenue between West 236th and West 238th Streets will be converted to bicycle racks.
3. Johnson Avenue Pedestrian Street will not move forward at this time since businesses were not in favor.
4. No March meeting.

J. Technology Ad Hoc Committee – A. Goldman

Discussed enhancement features to the Board's website, origination of visits and tallies, which averages 24 daily visits that include two from Cheyenne WY. Borough President's link is most recurring. Link to join mail list will be added. Checking feasibility of Patron Mail service which cost is \$125 yearly. A free trial run will be given.

K. Youth

The next meeting will be held March 24th, at 1:00 PM, at Board Office.

L. Aging – K. Pesce

1. The community's only food pantry at Church of the Mediator runs out one hour after opening. Donations are sorely needed.
2. The next meeting will be held on March 23, at 3:30 PM, at Riverdale Senior Center.

M. Budget – K. O'Brien

1. Reminded the chairs to begin their review for FY 2012 Capital and Expense budget priorities. Reviewed the guidelines and procedure to be followed in preparation for the budget.
2. Councilman Koppell offered to review capital budget requests of \$35,000 or more for possible discretionary monies funding.

N. Economic Development – R. Fanuzzi

1. The next meeting will be held on March 25th, Board Office, 7:30 PM. Representatives from Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation (BOEDC) will bring mapping technology; will look at spaces to compile data base; Stella D'Oro's site will be discussed. New president of BOEDC is very interested in development of site.
2. Johnson Avenue businesses are asked to give input on advancing development.

O. Education

S. Alexander reported on behalf of D. Bowden.

1. The next meeting will be held on March 23rd, Board Office, at 7:30 PM.
2. Will discuss working with the Health Committee on the placement of tobacco advertising in stores at children's eye level.
3. New York City has been placed amongst the 16 finalists for President Obama's Race to the Top school funding. Ms. Alexander commented that it is her hope that these monies will offset City/State cuts.

Meeting adjourned 9:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Manning
Community Associate