

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
HELD ON MARCH 11, 2008
AT KINGSBRIDGE HEIGHTS COMMUNITY CENTER
3101 KINGSBRIDGE TERRACE**

PRESENT: R. Abbott, R. Bender, D. Bowden, A. P. Cassino, A. P. Creaney, W. S. Dolny, T. Durham, A. Fana, R. Fanuzzi, T. Feerick, B. Fettman, T. Giallorenzi, M. Katzenstein, M. Khury, G. O. Koppell, J. Kreppel, D. McShane, C. G. Moerdler, K. O'Brien, K. Pesce, J. M. Pilsner, C. Prentice, J. M. Reyes, T. Rubinstein, S. Scheinbach, I. W. Stone, B. Trebach, E. Tossas Tucker, L. Vazquez, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

ABSENT: Rev. N. Dixon, B. Feinberg, A. G. Feldmeier, P. Friedman, J. Giegerich, J. Goris, J. Higgins, I. Ladimer, V. Gray-Lewis, R. Moll, J. O'Reilly, J. Plaza, L. Spalter

STAFF: N. Stent – District Manager, CB 8
D. Bay – Community Associate, CB 8
P. Manning – Community Associate, CB 8

GUESTS: M. Adigum
S. Alexander
K. Argenti - FIPNA
S. Balicer – rep. Councilman G. Oliver Koppell
Capt. J. D'Adamo – 50th Precinct
N. Danyluk – Department of City Planning
B. Diaz
J. DeSio – Riverdale Review
R. Fedderman – rep. Congressman Eliot Engel
P. Granat
J. Greene
N. Judd – Riverdale Press
J. Martin – rep. Senator Jeffrey Klein
P. McDonell – FIPNA
P. Moerdler
M. Perron – Van Cortlandt Park Administrator
C. Ramos, Jr. – rep. Comptroller William Thompson
Det. L. Rodriguez – 50th Precinct
R. Rothbard
L. Schwarz - FIPNA
J. Sewell – rep. Councilman G. Oliver Koppell
M. Sherman
A. Toledo – rep. Borough President Adolfo Carrión, Jr.

Chairman Cassino convened the meeting ay 7:40 PM.

Gallery Session

- A. Lynn Schwarz, Fort Independence Park Neighborhood Association, thanked Community Board No. 8 for intervening with the repair of the fallen construction fence at 3333 Giles Place. However, Ms. Schwarz advised that the fence had fallen once again and requested the Board's assistance. She continued to discuss the disruptive quality of life issues that have occurred due to the union strike at the Kingsbridge Heights Rehabilitation Care Center (KHRCC). The residents in the area have been bothered by KHRCC's flood lighting which penetrates into their homes and the noise from the generators powering the lights. Ms. Schwarz advised that DEP visited the site several times in response to complaints about the noisy generators and found the noise level in excess of the legal limit. Of those visits only one violation had been issued. Ms. Schwarz asserted that governing agencies are failing to take action to remedy the situation. She called upon Community Board 8 to intervene in this matter.
- B. Sylvia Alexander, former staff member of Community Board No. 8, addressed the Board to bid the members farewell. She advised of her recent termination from the staff of the Board office that was due to a budget deficit created in the Board office internal budget following the hiring of a new district manager. Ms. Alexander expressed her pleasure in working with the Board and stated her intentions to continue her involvement in the community.

Chairman thanked Ms. Alexander for her tenure while stating regrets over the situation. He referred the Board to his report in the Executive Board minutes as follows: The Board's internal budget had a significant deficit that occurred upon hiring a full-time district manager. He explained that the prior district manager had worked part-time for six years, which allowed the Board office to hire a part-time employee. During that time, there were sufficient funds for the salary of two part-time employees. However, with the transition to a full-time district manager, a deficit occurred in the budget. Despite numerous discussions with New York City Office of Management and Budget to obtain an increase in the budget, it became necessary to reduce staffing. Regrettably, Sylvia Alexander, who was employed part-time, was terminated. While there had been a misunderstanding and lack of information concerning the budget allowance prior to hiring the district manager, a staff reduction would have nonetheless been necessary in order to hire a full-time district manager.

D. Bowden inquired as to the actual figure for the internal budget deficit. Chairman advised that the amount was \$30,000, and there was no longer a budget deficit.

Chairman reported that the Board would have to absorb a city wide budget cut for FY 2009 commencing July 1, 2008. The Board passed a resolution opposing the cuts at the November 19, 2007 Board meeting. This reduction was announced in the fall to all city agencies including community boards. The community boards will have a total of \$10,000 cut from their budgets for fiscal year 2009 and possibly an additional 3% cut implemented by the Mayor.

C. Moerdler suggested that the Board reestablish the practice of distributing the Board's internal budget to the members in order that they may be kept informed of the office budget. Chairman advised that going forward the statement will be a part of the monthly report.

C. Moerdler also inquired of Councilman Koppell for assistance with the Boards budget. Councilman Koppell responded that he was not very optimistic in view of the City's prevailing budget deficit.

C. Russ Rothbard discussed the over-development in the community. He asked that the Board review the zoning for changes that would reduce such development.

1. Approval of Regular Board Minutes of February 12, 2008

B. Bender corrected the Parks & Recreation report to reflect that the cost of the project for Van Cortlandt Park parade grounds is \$12.5 million; D. Bowden advised that item No. 3 of the Education report incorrectly states her uncertainty on the issue. She therefore provided clarification and explained that according to a report in the Riverdale Press one half of MS/HS 141's 8th grade students scored on or above level 2 on the State math test; and only one third of MS/HS 368's students scored higher than level 2. The level is measured 1 – 4, with 4 being excellent.

The minutes were approved as amended unanimously.

2. Discussion of the Executive Board Committee Minutes of March 5, 2008

J. Reyes referred to the Economic Development report with regard to 7-Eleven franchises. She added that the Committee would not support 7-Eleven sites in primary residential areas in CB 8; C. Prentice provided a greater description of item No. 2 of the Youth report. She explained that the Council for Unity focuses on a broad spectrum of social causes integrated throughout the Bronx community.

The minutes were adopted following discussion.

- 3.** Chairman welcomed Councilman G. Oliver Koppell, and staff member Steve Balicer; Richard Fedderman, representing Congressman Eliot Engel; Jay Martin, representing State Senator Jeffrey Klein; Robert Press, representing State Senator Efrain Gonzalez; Carlos Ramos, Jr. representing Comptroller William Thompson; Andy Toledo, representing Borough President Adolfo Carrión, Jr.; Nestor Danyluk, Department of City Planning; Capt. John D'Adamo, Det. Luis Rodriguez, P.O. M. Ramos 50th Pct.; Margot Perron, Administrator, Van Cortlandt Park; Nick Judd, Riverdale Press, and John DeSio, Riverdale Review.
- 4.** Chairman introduced and welcomed Captain D'Adamo who was newly assigned as Commander of the 50th Precinct, and invited him to address the Board.

The Captain commented that he had lived on Godwin Terrace in the 50th Precinct's district, and he expressed his pleasure in returning as precinct commander. He

reported that within the month an arrest was made of a 14 year old responsible for a large number of burglaries. Since the arrest the problem has leveled out. Grand automobile larceny's are down, car break-ins for theft of GPS are on the rise. There was an arrest of a 20 year old from Rockland County in connection with car break-ins. Graffiti arrests are up 200%. The 50th will coordinate cleanups. Two fatalities in two weeks involving car accidents occurred on Broadway under the elevated train, enforcement has been increased in this area.

5. Chairman welcomed and invited Councilman Eric Gioia to address the Board.

The Councilman made a presentation on Food Stamp Eligibility and Hunger, particularly child hunger and the underutilization of the Federal Food Aid program. The population in New York City is 9 million, 1.9 million qualify for food stamps, 1.4 million are recipients, and only one-half of those not receiving benefits are children. Research of the underlying cause for underutilization of the program revealed that there was apprehension with the lengthy 24 page application. The Councilman was successful in reducing the application to 2 pages. He distributed information on eligibility criteria and urged everyone to spread the information about the program throughout the community, in places of worship, community centers; etc. Families earning under \$24,000 a year are most probably eligible. For further information call Councilman Gioia at 718-383-9566.

6. Chairman called upon Councilman G. Oliver Koppell to address the Board.

- Councilman Koppell reported that the Mayor had recently signed a bill allowing green card fruits and vegetable vendors to exist in neighborhoods where 14% or less of merchants do not stock fruits and vegetables. Therefore none will be within the boundaries of the 50th Pct.
- The Mayor's congestion pricing plan proposal will be voted on at the end of March. At the Councilman's recommendation, a clause was added to the proposal for consideration of "residential" spots to circumvent neighborhood streets being clogged by out-of town vehicles and taking up the usual residents parking. He therefore advised the Board to consider implementation of a parking plan for Community Board 8.

7. Chairman's Report -

Chairman Cassino advised that the signing of the 230th and Broadway development is expected within the week of March 17th.

8. Reforming Alternate Side Parking Rules Recommendation Report –

Chairman Cassino presented the Committee report which had been distributed for review. He presented the history of ASP regulations; advised about the public meetings held to consider reform; and noted the success of ASP reform in Brooklyn, Community Board 6. Four areas were chosen: Van Cortlandt Village – the area

bounded by Van Cortlandt Park South, Van Cortlandt Avenue West, Sedgwick Avenue and Saxon Avenue, Hillman Avenue, Gouverneur Avenue, Gale Place and two blocks off Orloff Avenue; Kingsbridge – West 231st to West 238th Streets, including Irwin, Tibbett, and Corlear Avenues; South Riverdale – West 227th to West 235th Streets, including Fairfield, Arlington, and Netherland Avenues; Central Riverdale – West 237th to West 246th Streets including Blackstone Avenue, Independence Avenue and the northern part of Hudson Manor Terrace (between West 237th and West 239th Streets).

Chairman opened the floor for discussion. C. Moerdler disclosed his Counsel affiliation with the Sanitation Union and recommended the exchange of vacated ASP areas to other locations within the district in order that cleaning personnel would be diminished in the area.

The question was called and approved. Chairman called for a vote on the Reforming Alternate-Side Parking Rules Recommendation Report.

Vote: 29 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention with cause

In Favor -

R. Abbott, R. Bender, D. Bowden, A. P. Cassino, A. P. Creaney, W. S. Dolny, T. Durham, A. Fana, R. Fanuzzi, T. Feerick, B. Fettman, T. Giallorenzi, M. Katzenstein, M. Khury, J. Kreppel, D. McShane, K. O'Brien, K. Pesce, J. M. Pilsner, C. Prentice, J. M. Reyes, T. Rubinstein, S. Scheinbach, I. W. Stone, B. Trebach, E. Tossas Tucker, L. Vazquez, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

Abstention with Cause –

C. Moerdler

Chairman thanked the Committee for its hard work.

9. Report from the Borough President's Office – A. Toledo

The appointments for community boards with openings are under review. Re-appointment applications are due by March 31st.

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

No report.

11. Committee Reports –

A. Aging – K. Pesce

The Committee's next meeting will be held on March 25th, at the Hebrew Home for the Aged, at 3:30 PM.

B. Budget – K. O'Brien

The committee chairs have received last year's list of Budget priorities. K. O'Brien asked that they begin reviewing and updating their priorities lists for FY 2010. They should take into consideration the agency responses indicated in the Register of Community Board Requests for the Preliminary Budget year 2009 which were distributed at the February Board meeting. Submissions should be finalized and approved by the committees by June. This information will be used to prepare the Board's Statement of District Needs due in early August.

Councilman Koppell announced that he will review small/medium projects for funding.

C. Economic Development – J. Reyes

1. Michael Jorgensen, representative of 7-Eleven franchise was guest speaker at the Committee meeting. For further information on 7- Eleven conversions, send email to Mr. Jorgensen at mjorge01@7-11.com or call 631-421-7859.
2. The Committee is working on job listings for posting in the neighborhood presses.
3. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on March 27th, Board Office, at 7:30 PM.

D. Education – D. Bowden

1. The Committee Chair strongly urged joining Councilman Koppell at a rally on March 19th, at 4:00 PM, at City Hall to oppose budget cuts to education. For the 2008-09 academic year, Mayor Bloomberg has proposed \$324 million budget cuts to the Department of Education in addition to \$100 million mid-year cut imposed this year. Parents of public school children should attend to have their voices heard. For further information contact Councilman Koppell.
2. Community School Board's District 10's Community Education Council meeting will be held on March 27th, at PS 59, at 2185 Bathgate Avenue, at 7:15 PM.
3. The next meeting of the Education Committee will be held on March 25th, at the Board Office, at 7:30 PM. Current education issues will be the topic of discussion. The new big education item is "What happens to the Department of Education post 2009?"

E. Environment & Sanitation – S. Scheinbach

1. The resolution tabled at the February Board meeting on the issue of legislation regarding placement of A-Frame signs was re-drafted and presented as follows:

WHEREAS, there has been a proliferation of commercial signage being placed on public property in Bronx Community District 8; and

WHEREAS, over a year ago, the Chairman of the Environment & Sanitation Committee of Community Board No. 8 sent letters asking local businesses placing these signs to desist from doing so; and

WHEREAS, there are companion bills pending in both houses of the New York State Legislature that would close many loopholes used by commercial advertisers to avoid being fined for placing their signage on public property; and

WHEREAS, the bills are known as Senate Bill 6106-A and Assembly Bill 9414; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That Community Board No. 8, Bronx, supports Senate Bill 6106-A and Assembly Bill 9414, and urges passage of these bills by the respective houses of the Legislature.

Vote: 27 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstention, and 1 abstention with cause

In Favor –

R. Abbott, R. Bender, D. Bowden, A. P. Cassino, A. P. Creaney, T. Durham, A. Fana, T. Feerick, B. Fettman, T. Giallorenzi, M. Katzenstein, M. Khury, J. Kreppel, D. McShane, K. O'Brien, K. Pesce, J. M. Pilsner, C. Prentice, J. M. Reyes, T. Rubinstein, S. Scheinbach, I. W. Stone, B. Trebach, E. Tossas Tucker, L. Vazquez, M. Wolpoff, H. Young

Opposed –

W. S. Dolny

Abstention –

R. Fanuzzi

Abstention with Cause –

C. Moerdler

2. Con Edison reported that construction on its M-29 project will start on March 24th and NYCDOT permits are pending. In accordance with Con Ed's approved Environmental Management & Construction Plan, a noise mitigation plan will be forwarded to the Board office. Installation of the manholes will

begin on the south end of the district and move north. The Board will be notified of locations following receipt of permits.

3. Chairman Cassino attended the February Croton Water Filtration Plant Monitoring Committee meeting. There was discussion concerning the reported "mob sting" written up in the newspapers regarding the project. When questioned, DEP claimed it was an isolated case. During the occurrence, the job was stopped for almost a day. Water rates will increase \$30 per household by the end of construction. The next meeting will be held on April 17th, and the Independent Budget Office will present.

F. Health, Hospitals and Social Services – M. Katzenstein

1. Announced a free work shop on autism on April 11th on Bathgate Avenue, at 9:30 AM.
2. The next Committee meeting will be held on March 17th, Board Office, at 7:00 PM.

G. Housing – J. Kreppel

1. The next Committee meeting will be held on March 31st, Board Office, at 7:30 PM.
2. He corrected the report in the Executive Board minutes regarding Jericho development as follows: There is a contract, but the sale has not closed yet.
3. Checking "As of Right" status for the Jericho project.
4. 3333 Giles Place is in the Appellate Division for review.

H. Land Use – C. Moerdler

1. The rocks which bordered the property at 626 West 254th Street have been removed.
2. He mentioned the problem with illegal construction activity permeating throughout the district. Specifically, in the area south of 228th Street and Henry Hudson Parkway.

I. Libraries and Cultural Affairs – L. Vazquez

1. The next meeting will be held on March 24, at the Spuyten Duyvil Library, at 7:30 PM.
2. Reported on the press conference held at the Humanities and Social Sciences Library, Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street, earlier during the day. A \$1 billion Transformation Plan was unveiled, and \$100 million of those monies

were donated by financier Steven Schwartzman. Locally, the branch libraries will benefit with funding for collections, support of local library programs and other programs.

J. Community Services Award – L. Vazquez

The nominations for the award are due by March 25th. Participation is urged.

K. Parks & Recreation – B. Bender

1. Refer to minutes for report.
2. Sid Augarten ballfield will be done in two phases over two years.
3. The next meeting will be held on March 26th, at the Riverdale Mental Health Association, at 7:00 PM. There will be a presentation on the final design for the Van Cortlandt Park parade grounds reconstruction project.

L. Traffic and Transportation – B. Trebach

1. Amended the report on the Work Notice for West 252nd Street Bridge over the Henry Hudson Parkway to advise that there will be 15 minutes of total lane closings nightly.

M. Youth

Refer to the report in the Executive Board minutes.

Meeting adjourned 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Manning
Community Associate