

(Pending Committee Approval)

Minutes of the Special Committee on Racial Equity Meeting
May 5, 2022, via Zoom

Attendees

Committee: Bob Bender, Margaret Della, Julia Gomez, Ramdat Singh, Camelia Tepelus

Absent: Bob Fanuzzi, Julie Reyes

Community: Shajada Brown, Araceli Farciert, Leona Teten

Presenter: none

Agenda

The meeting began at 7:02 pm and Chair Margaret Della welcomed the community to the meeting. Minutes of April 2022 were unanimously approved.

- **Review community list** - Community Organization document is kept and maintained by the Office as a part of the NY Charter. As part of its 2021 report recommendations, SCRE intends to work directly with community organizations to be sure folks are aware of Community Board (CB), what boards do, how to engage every corner of the district and get direct community feedback. In doing so, as a follow up to Rabbi Kaplan's remarks from the March 2022 meeting, this is a neighborhood opportunity to embrace unity - build a coalition, Interfaith, dignity, undoing racism.
ACTION: Office to ask CB8 members for community organizations not reflected in existing list. Chair will follow up with office.
- **Resource pilot project** - **ACTION:** Bob F. and Camelia spoke and task looms large to review industry report(s) to find measurable, comparable data points. Discussion pushed to June meeting to explore and identify which agency to use to review resources provided to District in comparison to other districts in the Bronx, overall Borough and other Boroughs.
- **CB8 capital project mapping:** Final draft map FY16-23 reviewed and discussed. Members provided initial observations and questions posed.
Top Requested/Incomplete Capital Projects (Five or more consecutive FY requests. ie Riverdale library and VCP House/Museum had 5 requests but they were all for different projects did not include.)
 - [Parks] Redesign and reconstruction of the Bailey Avenue playground
 - [E&S] Daylight Tibbetts Brook - in-progress
 - [Parks] Renovation of Van Cortlandt Stadium
 - [E&S] Erosion control measures in Ewen Park

- [Parks] Restroom Construction at Broadway and West 251st Street in Van Cortlandt Park adjacent to the Parade Grounds
- [Parks] Renovation of Strong Street playground - in-progress
- [Housing] Replacement of Boilers, HVAC at Marble Hill and Fort Independence Houses (top request FY18-23) - potentially in-progress. Based on City's response, unclear of status. Allegedly (boiler request) will be completed in 2023.
- [E&S] Reconstruction of the Pond Wall at Spuyten Duyvil Park to prevent water runoff onto the roadway in the parking lot of the Metro North station

Initial Observations/Questions:

- *Clarity of purpose:* Budget priorities - while all are worthwhile - should be prioritized by most need.
 - Most asks remain around the greatest population centers in the District where most residents impacted by positive/negative outcomes
 - Most urgent, top priority requests are in most needed areas of District. Fewer ad hoc requests recently and greater focus on greatest needs.
- *How to prioritize:* What is most effective/most useful in chasing our goals: short list of what we want done now or long list to capture priorities from all committees? Concentrated Committee requests from Parks, E&S, Housing. ie Only Econ Dev requests are for security cameras and once for benches. Should all committees ask for what each wants - ie tree guards - so the City knows what we want, or should we focus on top incomplete requests?
- *Effective strategy needed:* Concentrated capital requests in high need areas of District are incomplete. How/when/why do other projects get completed in District?
 - Scope/cost large
 - No one person/entity leading request
 - Elected officials need specific asks from CB8
 - CB8 priorities often do not come up through participatory budgeting process - good opportunity for stronger community engagement
 - *Lack of City engagement:* Parks are CB8's most consistent, largest request. NYC underfunds Bronx' parks the most and parks. What is CB8 advocacy in pursuing for parks funding for the greenest borough?
- What is done with the City's (lack of) response to annual requests?
ACTION: SCRE Chair to share with CB8 and Budget Chairs.
- **Board member data:** Publicly available data on CB8 board members from 2019 and 2020 discussed. 2021 pending. Data will be included in the SCRE interim report. Members held a discussion on nature of 'allowing' participation from board members and community members in Standing and Special Committee meetings. Some members stated that this is inherent in community meetings

and in cases when not permitted usually only when large attendance. Others stated that it was confusing when LRE notes OML indicates community participation is optional and CB8 only recommends chairs welcome community feedback. Leads to concerns about conflict between guidance, limited board membership and chairmanships to make decisions, and SCRE recommendations that CB8 hear from all areas of the District. All members agreed that greater communication from the office through social media, utilizing live streaming, translated notices into other languages, etc on issues before CB8, a dynamic website with timely resolutions and minutes as well as to be in compliance with OML are paramount. Members acknowledged new LRE guidance document to be posted to website to help chairs conduct inclusive meetings.

ACTION: Office give guidance on communication and accessibility

- **CB8 Community statement:** From CB8 website: The Bronx Community Board 8 (CB8) proudly represents residents and the interconnectedness of Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI), Black, White, Caribbean, Hispanic/Latinx, Muslim, Disabled, Hispanic/Latinx, Jewish, LGBTQIA, Indigenous and many other populations;

ACTION: Revise - Bob B.

- **Interim report plan:** It was agreed that the draft interim report would be submitted to the Board by May 2022 and the final submitted by June.

ACTION: Camelia/Julie Reyes - review current report and lead interim report.

- **Next agenda:** June 2nd Meeting 7pm

- Resource pilot program - Bob F./Camelia
- Interim Report- Julie R./Camelia
- Revise CB8 Community paragraph - Bob B. with input from all
- Discuss womens equity, health and criminalization

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm. Minutes submitted by Margaret Della

CB8 Demographics	45 Members (2019)	44 Members (2020)	District
16-17	0%	0%	21%
18-24	0%	0%	10%
25-44	18%	20%	25%
45-64	36%	32%	25%
65+	25%	20%	19%
Men	44%	50%	47%
Women	42%	39%	53%
Other Gender	0%	0%	0%
LGBTQ	11%	9%	UNK
AfricanAmerican/Black (non-Hispanic)	18%	20%	12%
Latino(a)/Hispanic	22%	20%	49%
South Asian	2%	4%	4%
Caucasian	56%	45%	32%
Other (non-Hispanic)	0%	0%	1.2%
Disabled	0%	2%	7.9%
Veteran	4%	2%	6%
Public Housing Resident	unpublished	2.5%	8.5%
Mitchell Lama Housing	unpublished	2.5%	UNK
Apartment in a Private Building	unpublished	39%	70%
Private House	unpublished	43%	5%

Bronx CB8 membership as per [public data published](#) by the Bronx Borough President's Office. District demographics as per public data from [NYC Community Profiles](#) (or from other links when noted).