

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #10 MEETING

Held on October 21, 2010

Ft. Schuyler House

3077 Cross Bronx Expressway, Bronx, N.Y. 10465

PRESENT: H. Acampora; R. Bieder; L. Burrowes; P. Cantillo; Col. W. Chin; A. Chirico; P. Devine; R. Dominquez; V. Gallagher; L. Goldstein; B. Heaney; D. Hunt; A. Jack; R. Kurz; D. Lock; K. Lynch; S. Lynch; J. Marano; J. McQuade; J. Miller; J. Misiurski; K. Neddermeyer; C. Papastefanou; D. Pouchie; M. Romano; M. Pricoli; A. Santiago; R. Sawyer; R. Talarico; F. Ventola (30)

ABSENT: R. Baez; L. Blascovich; D. Howard; R. Foley; C. Hughes; P. LaScala; S. Lask; Rev. C. Owens; B. Pitt; M. Prince; M. Prohaska; J. Regina; M.J. Musano; Rev. A. Rosario; A. Ribustello; J Russo; P. Sullivan (17)

Community Liaisons: Anthony Toledo - representing Bronx Borough President Reuben Diaz
Elaine Ricciardi - representing Assemblyman Michael Benedetto
Weijie Huang - representing Council Member James Vacca
Justin Horstmann - NYC Department of City Planning

Board #10 Staff: Kenneth Kearns – District Manager – Bronx Community Board #10
Patrick Caruso
Estelle Marra

Chairman Marano convened the meeting at 7:30PM with the Pledge of Allegiance. The Chairman thanked the management of Ft Schuyler House for the use of their facility this evening.

Mr. Marano introduced P.O. Newell and P.O. Spranling of the 45th Precinct. Both Officers spoke of the increase in domestic violence within our district, and what to do when you encounter this problem. They advised all present how the Precinct handles these situations.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SECTION:

1. Kathy Agona – P.S. 14 Staff Representative – spoke of the decline in the scholastic rating of P.S. 14. This school was always within the top rating regarding the educational element in local schools, and now they are in the very bottom of this listing. Mr. Kovac is a new Principal, and the staff and parents feel that he has been a cause of this decline. This school always had an “A” report card, and now they have a “D”. Ms. Agona distributed a flyer showing the ratings. The staff and parents feel that Mr. Kovac is a ‘manager’ not an educator.

Mr. Kearns asked if they had notified the Chancellor of this matter. It was then suggested that they approach Mr. Eric Nadelstein, Chief of Schools and advise him of this situation.

Mr. Bieder said that he would help with this matter through his committee, Youth Services Planning Committee, and reach out to Councilman Vacca and Senator Klein for their assistance. Ms. Agona informed the Board that the President of CEC is working with them.

2. Dawn Chance – Manager - N.Y. Public Library – Throggs Neck Branch
Ms. Chance gave an overview and update regarding the various programs being offered by The libraries, i.e. New Rochelle, Pelham Bay, Throggs Neck. For information you may Call 1-718-792-2612, or go on their website; www.nypl.org
3. Saleen Shah – Director - Citizens Committee for New York City – 1-212-822-9566
Spoke of LOVE YOUR BLOCK GRANT AWARDS - sshah@citizensnyc.org for neighborhood groups and student groups.
4. Weijie Huang – Constituent Liaison for Council Member James Vacca
Spoke of the Department of Buildings possibly revoking the permit for Pompeii Lounge. Mr. Huang advised the Board that Council Member Vacca is submitting legislation to stop Parking Summons' from being issued unnecessarily. Councilman Vacca is also trying to have speed humps and various traffic devices put where they could help ease traffic problems.

Motion to close Public Participation Section made by Mr. Bieder, seconded by Mr. Talarico.
Vote: Unanimous in favor (30)

Motion to accept minutes of September 16, 2010 Community Board #10 meeting made by Chairman Marano, seconded by Mr. Misiurski. Vote: Unanimous in favor (30)

BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Anthony Toledo

1. Mr. Toledo spoke of the Borough President's "PEACE IN THE STREETS" initiative, and the fact that volunteers are needed to walk the streets and give out literature on how to combat illegal guns and violence in communities. Mr. Toledo issued flyers telling when and where the Borough President was having a gathering regarding this issue – it will be held at 824-826 Courtlandt Avenue (corner of E. 159th Street) on Saturday, October 23, 2010 between the hours of 12:30p.m. – 4:00p.
2. Borough President Diaz is hosting a TOUR DE BRONX – free Bicycling Event on Sunday, October 24, 2010 in coordination with Montefiore Hospital, St. Barnabas Hospital, and Bronx-Lebanon Hospital. Starting location: Bronx County Building at Concourse and 161st Street – at 9:30am
3. Mr. Toledo handed out flyers regarding 2010 Gifted Bronx Parent Information Forums; Following are the dates, times, and locations of these forums;
Tuesday, October 26th - 6:30-8:00pm – Theodore Roosevelt Educational Campus
500 Fordham Road – Bronx., NY 10458

- Thursday, November 4th - 6:30-8:00pm – PS 204 Morris Heights
1780 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Bronx, New York 10453
- Wednesday, November 10th - 6:30-8:00pm - PS 30 The Wilton School
510 East 141 Street, Bronx, New York 10454

DISTRICT MANAGER’S REPORT: Kenneth Kearns

1. Attended Borough Budget Consultations - preliminary budget requests, based on community input, were presented to the various agencies.
2. We are working to have interns for our office through the Renaissance School at Lehman High School. They would profit from this experience by learning many business skills and how to contribute to their communities.
3. Legislators Crowley, Gonzalez, James, Lander, Seabrook, Vacca and Weprin have introduced a Local Law to amend the Administrative Code of the City of New York in relation to the removal of racoons. This law would put upon the City of New York the responsibility of removing racoons from public or private property when a request is received from a member of the public.

This will take effect immediately after the Mayor signs it.

4. All minutes will be e-mailed to Community Board #10 members from now on.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: John Marano

Minutes were self-explanatory.

MUNICIPAL SERVICES COMMITTEE: Kenneth Kearns (in Mr. Russo’s absence)

1. Explained certain items in the minutes. Then Mr. Kearns read the following Resolution:

“Resolved...at the recommendation of the Municipal Services Committee, that Alternate Side of the Street Parking Regulations and appropriate signage be installed at DeRiemer and Basset Avenues, to facilitate street cleaning by the Department of Sanitation mechanical brooms, and that this information be communicated to the full Board for its approval.”

The Committee was unanimous in its support. Motion to accept made by Mrs. Gallagher, seconded by Mr. Misiurski. Vote: Unanimous in favor (30)

2. St. Paul Avenue reversal has not been determined as yet. We will advise all when a recommendation is made and we are notified by the Department of Transportation.

3. Pompeii Lounge was discussed. Any problems should be reported to 311 and get a complaint number. The Community Board will follow with the confirmation number.
4. Bridges – Ferry Service were other items discussed by this Committee. See the Municipal Services Committee minutes.

HOUSING & ZONING COMMITTEE; Robert Bieder (in Mr. Sullivan’s absence)

Minutes were read and discussed. Mr. Bieder read the following Resolutions.

“Resolved...at the recommendation of the Housing and Zoning Committee of Bronx Community Board #10, that the language of the Lower Density Growth Management Areas Community Facility Text Amendment, be approved in its present form, with the reservation of adding group homes and houses of worship to said language, after the Amendment has secured approval from the City Council, and that this Resolution be communicated to the full Board for its approval.” The Committee was unanimous in its support.
Motion to accept made by Mr. Bieder, seconded by Mr. Chirico.

There was much discussion regarding this Resolution, and Mr. Kearns explained that we could change the Zoning Text Amendment language from ‘reservation’ to ‘recommendation’. Mrs. Acampora asked if this would apply to add-ons. City Planning Commission said it has to do with Parking facilities to be available for all building.

Vote: In favor: (27) –0 opposed – 3 abstentions: Mrs. Jack, Mr. Ventola, Mr. Santiago

“Resolved...at the recommendation of the Housing and Zoning Committee of Bronx Community Board #10, that the requested change in the Zoning Text Amendment, providing for an increase in height of the perimeter wall from 21 to 25-26 feet; the authorization for private street status and adherence by Sea Breeze Development to a Restrictive Declaration for a public access venue and promenade, in accordance with the standards established by the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation be approved by the full Board, with the reservation that Sea Breeze Development provide the Board with a letter stating that they are willing to work with Bronx Community Board #10 and local civic associations, during the duration of construction.”
The Committee was unanimous in its support. Motion to accept made by Mrs. Jack, seconded by Mrs. Lock.

Discussion then took place whereby Mrs. Gallagher explained that the public would be able to use the park on Marine Street with full access to launch a kayak. City Planning Commission has decreed that it had to be done. Sea Breeze Developer, Mr.Kandell spoke of the area being smaller than originally planned, and the public will have open access without a gate.

Vote: In favor: (28) – 0 opposed – 2 abstentions: Mr. Bieder, Mr. Devine

PLANNING & BUDGET COMMITTEE: Julian Misiurski

Minutes were self-explanatory. Documents regarding the Budget Consultations were attached.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: James McQuade

Minutes were self-explanatory. Mr. McQuade explained how Freight Trains are off-loaded to port cities in New Jersey; freight cars loaded on to barges and pushed across the Hudson River to New York; freight cars are off-loaded and shipped to market points. This is called the Cross Harbor Freight Program. Mr. McQuade read the following Resolution:

“Resolved...at the recommendation of the Economic Development Committee, that Bronx Community Board #10 support the establishment of the Cross Harbor Freight Program, by which freight cars would be loaded onto barges from port cities in New Jersey, transported across the Hudson River to New York, and then shipped via smaller trucks to market points.” The Committee was unanimous in its support. Motion to accept made by Mrs. Gallagher, seconded by Mr. Misiurski. Vote: Unanimous in favor (30)

Discussion took place regarding small businesses being revived, and how it would be good for City Island and Throggs Neck in particular, due to the waterfront access. Mr. McQuade would like to have Civic groups come to a meeting where the subject would be Waterfront Access, i.e. dredging, Westchester Creek, etc.. Mrs. Gallagher told all present that our District has received 17 tons of sand for Orchard Beach.

Mr. McQuade thanked the Parks Committee and the Economic Development Committee for working together.

YOUTH SERVICES PLANNING COMMITTEE: Robert Bieder

Minutes were self-explanatory.

Mr Bieder spoke of three Youth Fairs being held in March at I.S. 192 and I.S. 194. There will be representatives from the Youth and Development agency available at these events. Mr. Bieder thanked the Beacon Program, and he suggested that we meet with the Department of Youth and Development to discuss proposals.

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE: Virginia Gallagher

This Committee did not meet during October. The meeting of the Parks & Recreation Committee will be held on November 8, 2010.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES: Deborah Hunt

Minutes were self-explanatory. Ms. Hunt told of her participation in the Breast Cancer Walk. The next meeting of this Committee will be held on Monday, October 25, 2010 at our District Office. There will be a presentation by Dr. Steinerman on Alzheimer's Disease.

Motion to close Committee Reports made by Mr. Talarico, seconded by Mr. Bieder.
Vote: Unanimous in favor. (30)

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Board Member Lewis Goldstein asked that the following Resolution be read to the Board and voted upon. **“Be it Resolved...**Community Board #10 condemn the recent violence committed against gays in the Bronx and elsewhere. **Be it further resolved,** Community Board #10 calls upon all schools, civic organizations, and city agencies to work with Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. and Bronx Community Pride to combat acts of violence and bullying of not only our gay youth, but also of acts committed against anybody based on disability, race, religion, national background, gender, height, weight, or other body features.” Motion made by Mr. Goldstein to accept this Resolution, seconded by Mr. Dominquez.

After much discussion, pro and con, Mr. Bieder motioned that this item be tabled and sent to Committee, this was seconded by Mr. Misiurski. Vote: Unanimous in favor of tabling this Resolution and sending it to the Municipal Services Committee.

At this point, Anita Valenti, Vice-President of the Pelham Bay Taxpayers Association spoke regarding Community Board #10's vote on March 18, 2010 on the reversal of St. Paul Avenue. It is now October, 2010, and nothing has happened. Mr. Marano advised Mrs. Valenti that The Department of Transportation has not yet made their recommendation.

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Talarico, seconded by Mrs. Jack. Vote: Unanimous in favor (30)

Meeting adjourned at 9:40PM.

Respectfully submitted by Mrs. Marra, Clerical Associate