

MINUTES OF COMMUNITY BOARD #10 MEETING

**March 10, 2011
Preston High School
2870 Schurz Avenue
Bronx, NY 10465**

PRESENT: H. Acampora; R. Baez; R. Bieder; L. Blascovich; L. Burrowes; P. Cantillo; A. Chirico; Col. W. Chin; R. Dominquez; V.M. Gallagher; D. Hunt; J. Miller; K. Neddermeyer; C. Papastefanou; B. Pitt; D. Pouchie; M. Pricoli; M. Prince; M. Prohaska; J. Regina; J. Russo; A. Santiago; R. Sawyer; P. Sullivan; R. Talarico; F. Ventola (26)

ABSENT: P. Devine; R. Foley; L. Goldstein; B. Heaney; D. Howard; C. Hughes; A. Jack; R. Kurz; S. Lask; D. Lock; K. Lynch; S.P. Lynch; J. Marano; J. McQuade; J. Misiurski; M.J. Musano; Rev. C. Owens; M. Romano; Rev. A. Rosario; A. Ribustello; (21)

Community Liaisons:

Andy Toledo - representing Bronx. Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.
Thomas Messina - representing Congressman Joseph Crowley
Ms. Petta - representing State Senator Jeffrey Klein
Ben Randazzo - representing State Assemblyman Michael Benedetto
Weijie Huang - representing Councilman James Vacca
Patrick Rocchio - Bronx Times Reporter
Juton Horstman - NYC Department of City Planning

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

Martin Prince, Vice-Chair of Community Board #10 convened the meeting at 7:30 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Prince thanked Preston High School for the use of their facility this evening. He introduced the representatives of the elected officials that were present, (as noted above).

At this time, Board Members, Mr. Bieder, Mr. Prince, and District Manager, Kenneth Kearns of Bronx Community Board #10, presented Mr. James McSherry, a teacher at Lehman High School, with a plaque acknowledging an Emmy Award nomination for Public Service

Programming developed by Lehman High School students, and a plaque to Ms. Janet Saraceno, Principal of Lehman High School for her work with youth in the field of Arts and Film. Mr. Michael Max Knobbe, Executive Director of Bronx Net at Lehman College spoke of the achievements of Lehman High School and their partnership with Bronx Net. Students at Lehman High School, have the opportunity of interning for Bronx Net, and their trainer would be Mr. James McSherry. Bronx Net plans to expand this program to East and South Bronx locations. Any student interested in this program can e-mail Mr. Knobbe at Lehman College www.bronxnet.org or max@bronxnet.org.

Mr. Prince then introduced Mr. David Yassky, Chairman of the TLC (Taxi & Limousine Commission). Chairman Yassky spoke of a proposal being considered that would create a new class of livery cab would be allowed to pick up street hails, in the Boroughs other than Manhattan. This proposal would require them to emulate the yellow cabs, (in that they would feature, i.e. roof lights; meters to show the fare, licensing and inspections). A question and answer session took place as many Board Members wanted some specifics, questioning the accuracy of the meters. Chairman Yassky informed all present that the meters are calibrated and inspected at TLC shops. He further commented that this proposal would not hurt the legitimate private taxi services, such as Crosby, Zero, and Co-op. In response to a question concerning the rules mandating that yellow cabs serve the outer boroughs, Chairman Yassky said that the economic realities (cost of medallions, car rentals and fuel) of the taxi industry, prohibit them from operating as a point of origin, in areas other than the central business district in Manhattan. Mr. Yassky commented on a question concerning recent press reports regarding yellow cabs refusing to take fares to destinations from Manhattan to the outer Boroughs. He indicated that the agency has employed CUNY students as test passengers to determine the incidence of drivers refusing to take passengers to Boroughs other than Manhattan.

The Commissioner entertained questions ranging from the number of cabs roaming through the community to the fine structure associated with violations of the TLC regulations. The Chairman summed up his address with a statement that the proposed system will be like the yellow cab system.

Cards were distributed this evening, from the NYC Taxi & Limousine Commission. Attendees were asked to e-mail www.nyc.gov/taxi and take the survey.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SECTION

1. Lucia Giraldi – Member of Preston Alumnae Board
Spoke of the MTA/Local Service – feels that the #14 bus should be restored, as this is needed for residents of this area that need to travel to Parkchester and back. With reference to the #8 bus, their schedules need revision, they are often late, and the wait for this bus is too long.

2. Debra Arles – Executive Director – St. Joseph’s School for the Deaf Spoke of the Spirit Day Parade/Advocacy - Wednesday –March 17th from 10AM-12PM. All are invited. The Mayor’s budget was the funding for this event, however, they no longer fund us, and we are fighting to have this money restored.

3. Deacon Gregory G. Romero – Life Together Fellowship – Presbyterian Church – 2950 Dewey Avenue Deacon Gregory spoke of the service that his Church gives to the community. They collect clothing and food and issue these things to the needy in the community. For more information or to donate, please call 1-347-691-3755 or 1-914-715-0632

Motion to close the Public Participation Section made by Mr. Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Regina
Vote: Unanimous in favor. (26)

Motion to accept minutes of Community Board 10 meeting of February 17, 2011 made by Mr. Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Chirico. Vote: Unanimous in favor. (26)

BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT’S REPORT: Andy Toledo

Mr. Toledo spoke of upcoming events sponsored by the Borough President:

1. Irish Heritage Celebration – March 23, 2011 – 5:30 PM – to be held at: The Rambling House - 4292 Katonah Avenue. RSVP 1-718-590-3989

Mr. Toledo encouraged all present to go on-line and take the Taxi & Limousine Commission survey.

DISTRICT MANAGER’S REPORT: Kenneth Kearns

Chairman John Marano asked that I remind the Board members of the importance of attending Board and Committee meetings. We must have a quorum at all of these meetings if we are to do business as mandated by the City Charter. Board members must attend regular Community Board meetings, because when three meetings are missed, that Board member is supposed to be removed from the Board.

Work is done at the Committee meetings – ideas, debates, exchanges all take place at these meetings. We ask that Board members make extra effort to attend their Committee meetings because the work done at that time is then brought to the entire Board and the monthly Community Board meeting. Community Board #10 has the record of being one of the hardest working Boards in the Bronx and getting complaints resolved quickly. We cannot let something as minor as attendance get in the way of our work.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Kenneth Kearns (for John Marano) Mr. Prince went on to reiterate what District Manager Kearns said in regard to attendance at meetings. Mr. Prince stated that the minutes were self-explanatory.

MUNICIPAL SERVICES COMMITTEE: Joseph Russo

Mr. Russo thanked committee members for re-electing him as Chairman. Minutes were self-explanatory, but had the following Resolutions:

1. **“Resolved...**at the recommendation of the Municipal Services Committee of Bronx Community #10 that the application for a Street Activity Permit to close the following streets for the Annual “Fair in the Square” event on May 14th, 2011: Saint Raymond Avenue (between E. Tremont Avenue and Williamsbridge Road); Saint Raymond Avenue (between E. Tremont Avenue and Benson Street); and Benson Street (between Tratman Avenue and Lane Avenue) between the hours of 10:00AM to 7:00 PM, be approved”. Requested by the Westchester Square Merchants Association – Joseph Regina-Motion to approve made by Mr. Bieder, seconded by Mr. Prohaska. Vote: Unanimous in favor (26)
2. **“Resolved...**at the recommendation of the Municipal Services Committee of Bronx Community Board #10, that the street activity permit for Parsifal Place Block Party – June 11th, 2011, 9 AM to 9 PM (includes setup and breakdown) at Parsifal Place, between Lohengrin Place and Dead End be approved.” Requested by the Parsifal Place Association - Michael McNerney - Motion to approve made by Mr. Blascovich, seconded by Mrs. Acampora. Vote: Unanimous in favor (26)
3. **“Resolved...**at the recommendation of the Municipal Services Committee of Bronx Community Board #10, that the street activity permit for Life Together Fellowship CommUnity Day – September 17th, 2011, 9 AM to 7 PM, (includes setup and breakdown) Dewey Avenue, between Logan and Edison Avenues be approved.” Requested by Life Together Fellowship – Reverend Raymond Serrano Motion to approve made by Mr. Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Bieder. Vote: Unanimous in favor (26)
4. **“Resolved...**at the recommendation of the Municipal Services Committee of Bronx Community Board, that Bronx Community Board #10 sponsor a 197-a Master Plan study for the entire Ferry Point Park area from Bruckner Boulevard to all around Ring Road, inclusive, be approved.” Motion to approve made by Mr. Sullivan, seconded by Mr. Regina. Vote: Unanimous in favor (26)

Mr. Prince suggested that the Committee check out the businesses in the area. We need specifics from the general Public and Board Members.

HOUSING & ZONING COMMITTEE: Peter Sullivan

Mr. Sullivan read the minutes and spoke about the following items:

1. Sea Breeze development on City Island – construction will take place by this summer, but there has to be further conversation with the Civic Association.
2. 2916 Lafayette Avenue – the area is too small to build a medical facility. The Board will monitor further developments.
3. Re-development of 815 Brush Avenue (former Postal Bulk Storage facility) the possibility of a retail center was discussed. Messrs. Marano, Sullivan, Russo and McQuade are working on the development of a Master Plan for the area. This topic will come to the entire Board.

Mr. Sullivan thanked his Committee members for re-electing him as Chairman of this Committee.

PLANNING & BUDGET COMMITTEE - This Committee did not meet this month.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: -This Committee did not meet this month.

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE: - Virginia Gallagher

A new pumping station behind the bath house at Orchard Beach will be constructed and fully landscaped. Funds have been received to renovate the entire waterfront area at Bayshore Avenue; a gate will be installed, parking will be changed, and the entire Eastchester Bay waterfront area will be renovated. This item was tabled at the Committee meeting and will be discussed with the Civic Association.

The sand at Orchard Beach has been replaced with the funding of an \$11 million allocation.

Plans exist for bicycle paths to Pelham Bay Park and to go over the Pelham Bridge and Hutchinson River Bridge. Department of Parks and Recreation will be giving us additional plans as to how this will work, and there are plans in our District Office for anyone to review. The Committee has reserved comment on the issue, until it hears from the management of the host community, Co-op City.

A Therapeutic Riding Academy for disabled children, Veterans, etc. was discussed. This is to enable the disabled to learn to ride horses. The Committee voted to allow this item to be handled by the Department of Parks & Recreation.

YOUTH SERVICES PLANNING COMMITTEE: Robert Bieder

Minutes were read and were self-explanatory. Mr. Bieder discussed the child support payment program and how it should be adjusted. Department of Human Resources is also offering a program of “Mediation Services” between custodial and non-custodial parents without going to court. Interested parties may call HRA at 1-212-480-5066, go to website www.NYC.GOV, or attend the Youth Fair on March 17th at Truman High School – 4:00 PM-7:00 PM. He also discussed the importance of the “Ladders to Leaders” program, and how it should be expanded.

The Friends of Pelham Bay Park is having a fundraiser on Thursday, March 24, 2011 at the Pelham-Split Rock Golf Clubhouse – 6:00 PM-8:00 PM. This is to raise money to buy beach wheelchairs.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE: This Committee did not meet this month.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS:

Rocco Talarico spoke of Community Board #10’s success with the P.S. 14 problem. The new Principal has instituted a program whereby the staff, students and the administration are involved in a Shelter Drill and Intruder Drill in the event of an emergency and re-opened the library.

Virginia Gallagher spoke of ‘MT. GARBAGE’, (the Pelham Bay Landfill) which will be made into a park and she suggested that an American Flag be posted on top of this parcel of land.

Michael Pricoli spoke of the 16 City Council bills now being legislated which will have the City do the proper thing when we have another blizzard, as this past winter. Mr. Pricoli went on to speak of future topics to be brought to the Municipal Services Committee.

Motion to appoint a Nominating Committee made by Peter Sullivan, seconded by Al Santiago
Vote: Unanimous in favor (26) The following Board Members volunteered to be the Nominating Committee: Joanne Miller, Al Santiago, Rocco Talarico agreed to Chair this Committee.

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Bieder, seconded by Mr. Sullivan.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Mrs. Marra, Clerical Associate