

COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD #11, THE BRONX

2280 WALLACE AVENUE - ROOM 2

BRONX, NEW YORK 10467

(212) 653-0936



DOMINIC CASTORE,
CHAIRMAN

THOMAS J. BROWN,
DISTRICT MANAGER

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 18, 1982 AT THE
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS - MARY QUEEN OF PEACE LODGE

The meeting was called to order at 8:18 P.M. by Dom Castore, Chairman.

I. Gallery Session

A. Dominic DeProspero - Morris Park Community Association

Mr. DeProspero spoke about the Bronx #26 bus line which extends from Westchester Square to 137th Street and Lincoln Avenue. He stated that since the route was extended to Westchester Square those people in the Morris Park community and on Boston Road, including those in Community District #3, are suffering with poor service. He explained that they (MaBSTOA) are now running a shuttle service from Westchester Square to West Farms Road. He said that one out of every four buses goes to Lincoln Avenue and 137th Street now. Mr. DeProspero said that because of this the buses are very overcrowded. He said that he had counted those on the bus this morning, and that there were 120 people. Mr. DeProspero also spoke about the elimination of some bus stops. He stated that the bus stop in front of Our Lady of Solace School has been eliminated, and also Holland Avenue on both sides of the street. Mr. DeProspero stated that stops were eliminated along Boston Road. He said that after the stop at 166th Street and Boston Road the next stop is 163rd Street and 3rd Avenue.

Pat DeMartino spoke about the fact that stops were also eliminated on Garfield Street and Morris Park Avenue and Melville and Morris Park Avenue.

Mr. DeProspero thanked Mr. DeMaio for the snow removal.

B. Priscilla Crowell - Eastchester Houses Tenants Association

Ms. Crowell spoke about a problem at Burke Avenue from Boston Road east to Gun Hill Road. She stated that this stretch is used as a drag strip. Ms. Crowell stated that it is very dangerous for the school children. She requested that a traffic signal be placed at the curb to slow down the traffic. She suggested that it be placed at Tenbroeck and Burke Avenues. Ms. Crowell then spoke about the pot holes in the area.

Tom Brown told her that the pot holes should be taken care of this summer as it was in the Board's budget requests.

Ruth Bernstein suggested that Ms. Crowell send a letter to the Board on Tenant Association stationery requesting a light, and a petition with signatures also be included.

Dom Castore requested that Ms. Crowell give other possible locations for a light in case the first site is not acceptable to Traffic.

II. Minutes

Corrections

Lew Goldstein stated that on page 6 under Health and Social Services the motion by Barbara Fried should read "That Community Planning Board #11 go on record as being against the concept of a program to shelter homeless people".

Simeon Goldstein stated that on page 7 under Housing it should read "He stated that the H.U.D. representatives indicated that, in the opinion of that agency, the communities in our district are basically good areas, so that they generally repair buildings in our district which they take over in foreclosure".

Simeon also stated that under New Business it should read "Simeon Goldstein addressed a question, which had been raised at a previous meeting, as to whether our Board is permitted to pass resolutions on matter which are not specifically listed as subjects on which we are supposed to act, in the Charter. He then read portions of Section 2800 d. of the City Charter, and stated that it permits us to pass resolutions 'with respect to any matter relating to the welfare of the district and its residents' ".

Motion by Rhoda Gogatz - Second by Lew Goldstein - That the Minutes be accepted as corrected.

Unanimously accepted.

II. District Manager's Report

Tom stated that the District Service Cabinet Minutes had been distributed.

Tom said that he had attended a meeting this morning on special tax assessment districts. He said that Assemblyman Dearie had called this meeting with Councilman Spigner of Queens. Tom explained what a tax assessment district is. He stated that an area that has been designated as a special tax assessment district is subject to an increase in the property assessment to landlords in that area (which is then passed on to the merchants). Tom said that this increased assessment is for the purpose of purchasing supplementary services that the City does not offer. As an example he stated that on White Plains Road the bricks and lights resulting from the Commercial Revitalization will need to be maintained. Tom said this assessment could also pay for sidewalk sweeping and the O.T.B. vacuum. He said that there is a special procedure for obtaining special tax assessment designation. Tom said that 51% of the merchants and landlords have to be in agreement with the designation. He then explained why it pertains to this area. Tom said that at some point in the process the Board will receive, from the City Planning Commission, a certified application to declare X blocks a special assessment district. He said that several of the merchant areas may want to have this. Tom said that he will try to get someone from the Office of Economic Development or City Planning Commission to explain this in full to any merchants group at a night meeting.

Andrea Pereira said that the Board should pay special attention to the tax assessment area.

Discussion took place on when this will go into effect.

Tom stated that he had spoken with Adina Taylor of the Pelham Parkway Mall Corporation, and that Adina is already preparing the plan for having a portion of White Plains Road and adjacent blocks designated a special tax assessment district. He stated that both he and Adina felt that the Executive Committee, or the Economic Development Committee and the Land Use Committee should meet with her on this. He stated that boundaries and the kinds of service to be provided need to be discussed. Tom said that 51% of the tenants (tenants above stores) must be polled if the designated area includes such properties. He said that by the end of December the final list of those interested in becoming a special tax assessment area must go before the Board of Estimate.

Ruth Bernstein asked that Adina Taylor and Barbara Wolfe be invited to the Executive Committee meeting to discuss this.

Discussion took place on getting these people before the entire Board. Dom said that these people should meet with the entire Board rather than the Executive Committee.

Tom stated that he had handed in the Board's application for the Summer Youth Program. He stated that this needed to be discussed later.

Tom said that he had worked out a tentative Board budget for Fiscal Year 1983, and that it needs Board approval tonight.

IV. Borough President's Report

Bob Nolan reported that the Borough President had held a meeting with over 30 Little League Presidents today. He stated that the Borough President had attempted to bring together the Little League Presidents and the new Parks Commission for the Bronx, Robert Santos. He said that this meeting gave the Little Leagues a chance to give the Parks Department their complaints about field conditions in enough time for Parks to take care of them before the Little League season begins. Bob said that present at the meeting from Board #11 were the Astor Little League, Pelham Parkway Little League and Tremont Little League.

Bob said that the Borough President has said that this year Bronx week will be May 9 - 16. He asked those here tonight who represent organizations to let their memberships know about it, and to let the Borough President know of any ideas they might have.

Bob said that on Monday at 8:45 A.M. the Bronx Borough Board will be meeting. He stated that one of the topics to be discussed will be snow removal.

Bob said that on February 11th the Board of Estimate approved the lease of a lot adjacent to P.S. 96 with the resolution that the land only be used for a Little League field, as was recommended by Community Planning Board #11.

Bob said that the Borough President had received a list of sites for bus shelters. He stated that they were being reviewed by the Borough President. Bob said that when the lists are completed and sent to the Department of General Services, a copy will be sent to the Board.

Bob said that the Borough President's office is still accepting input on the scope for the Bronxdale Pool. He stated that he hoped it would be sent out within a month.

Questions were asked about the status of the Oak Street project. Bob explained that it was a major transportation project and that it is still being pushed by the Department of Transportation. He said that there is money in the budget, and that Transportation is waiting for the Environmental Impact Statement.

Discussion took place as to why the Board was not notified of the Little League meeting and other meetings on things that the Board is involved in.

A question was raised on the status of Cable T.V. Bob stated that Cablevision is the only company to have applied for a franchise throughout the Bronx. He said that within the next few months direct negotiations will begin on the dollar amount for the service.

Andrea Pereira explained that the Department of City Planning has its main office downtown, and that its main function is to coordinate services. She stated that the Bronx Office's main function is to bring this coordination to the local level. Andrea said that her main job was to give technical assistance, and to get maps and do research. She stated that she is in charge of planning. Andrea said that the main thing she is doing now is a plan to obtain designation of the Pelham Parkway area as a Neighborhood Strategy Area. She said that this is in the early stages. Andrea asked the Board members that if they have any specific topics they would like covered to let her know. She also said that the Land Use Committee should use her services, as she can research information for them on Land Use matters. She stated that she can also obtain information on the Capital and C.D. budgets.

V. Treasurer's Report

Tom spoke about the Turn Around Document for Fiscal Year 1983. He stated that it is for \$70,000, and scheduled to begin on July 1st. Tom said that copies had been distributed tonight. He then explained the Turn Around Document.

Questions were raised which Tom answered on the differences between the Turn Around Document and the Preliminary Budget Request.

Motion by Rhoda Gogatz - Second by Steve Zarkin - That Community Planning Board #11 accept the Board's budget as presented.

Passed

VI. By-Laws Revisions

A great deal of discussion took place on the proposed By-Laws revisions.

Motion by Lew Goldstein - Second by Pat DeMartino - That Community Planning Board #11 accept the proposed By-Laws revisions.

Amended by Steve Zarkin with the corrections that #2 become #3, and that #3 become #2 with the following changes that it now read "The member whose removal is proposed by the Committee shall be given the opportunity to respond in person or in writing to the Committee".

Unanimous

(Final text of approved By-Laws revisions are on the following page)

ARTICLE III - SECTION IV - REMOVAL REVISIONS(as approved on February 18, 1982)

An appointed member may be removed for cause by the Borough President or a majority of the appointed members of the Board. Cause shall include absences from three (3) consecutive Community Board meetings (PUBLIC HEARINGS NOT INCLUDED) without good reason (to be determined by a majority of the Membership Committee), or the absence from five (5) of the regular monthly Board meetings between January 1st and December 31st of each year.

(a) The Borough President shall not remove a Board member unless he first notifies the member in writing of his intention to remove and the cause for the proposed removal. The member whose removal is proposed shall have 20 days from the date of mailing of the Borough President's notice within which to respond in writing to such notice. Upon receipt of this response or upon the expiration of 20 days, whichever is earlier, the Borough President shall have the power to remove the member.

(b) The Board shall not remove a member except in accordance with the following procedures:

1. A motion to institute removal proceedings setting forth the cause for the proposed removal, shall be adopted by a majority of the appointed members of the Membership Committee present and voting at a meeting, the agenda for which shall have included consideration of removal of a member.

2. The member whose removal is proposed by the Committee shall be given the opportunity to respond in person or in writing, to the Committee.

3. The Board shall receive the report of the Committee, including a minority report, if any, and the response, if any, of the member being considered for removal at the following meeting of the full Board.

4. A motion to remove the member shall be valid only if adopted by a majority of the appointed members of the Board present at a meeting, the agenda for which shall have included action on removal.

Lew Goldstein requested that the Chairman direct the Membership Committee to meet before the March Board meeting, and to present a report at the March meeting on other members with poor attendance.

VII. Committee Reports

A. Land Use

As Steve Lovitch was not present Tom gave the report.

1. C 820584PPX - application to dispose of City-owned properties

a. 900 Pelham Parkway South

Tom stated that he had a letter from the President of the Center and explained that the City had a lien on this property, but that it was taken care of as of January 11th. He stated that he recommended that the Board waive a Public Hearing and recommend that it not be sold.

Motion by Rhoda Gogatz - Second by Steve Zarkin - That Community Planning Board #11 waive a Public Hearing on this application and recommend that this property not be sold.

Unanimous

b. Semi-improved parcel at Northeast corner of Mead and Garfield Streets

Tom explained the background on this site. He stated that the Van Nest Civic Association had requested that C.D. money be used to convert this parcel to a recreation area. He said that the Van Nest Civic Association pays for the maintenance and insurance of this site. Tom then read a letter from Elizabeth Brown, President of the Van Nest Civic Association.

Motion by Mike LaGuardia - Second by Arthur DeLuca - That Community Planning Board #11 recommend to City Planning Commission that this lot be withheld from sale.

Unanimous

2. C 820198GFX - Renewal of consent to maintain and use tunnel under Lurting Avenue between Pelham Parkway South and Esplanade

Discussion took place on whether a Public Hearing should be held on this.

Motion by Myra Rose - Second by John Cifichello - That Community Planning Board #11 waive a Public Hearing on this application.

Passed with 1 abstention.

Motion by Myra Rose - Second by Blanche Comras Rifkin - That Community Planning Board #11 recommend to City Planning Commission that this consent be renewed.

Unanimous

B. Housing

Simeon Goldstein stated that the Department of Housing Preservation and

3. That the Board request that the Parks Department supply the Board with a copy of the work order given to the contractor, with a time frame for the completion of the work to be done when the contractor is chosen, so that the Board can monitor it.

Motion by Lew Goldstein - Second by Joe Reda - That Community Planning Board #11 accept the Parks Committee Report and the recommendations within it.

Passed

E. Youth

1. Bronx Council on the Arts, Inc.

Leslie McHenry reported that the Youth Committee had met on February 4th. She said that prior to holding that meeting it had received authorization from the Executive Committee to hold a meeting to discuss the renewal contract for the Bronx Council on the Arts, Inc. - Artists in Residence Program, which is currently funded through the Youth Board. Leslie said that the recommendation on a renewal contract was due by January 29th, and that because of this deadline (extended) the Youth Committee wanted to discuss this program, and find out how successful it was. She said that it is currently being run at five sites; P.S. 83, Bronx Developmental Center, Eastchester Gardens Community Center, Bronx House and Parkside Community Center. Leslie said that prior to the meeting she had spoken with people at the various sites and had learned that the program had only been in progress for two weeks, but that it was a good program. Leslie said that at the February 4th meeting Bill Aguado, the Director and a few members of his staff were present to explain the program to the Committee. She said that Mr. Aguado told the Committee that the program was being funded for \$20,000, and that they were just about making it. Leslie said that after hearing Mr. Aguado's presentation the Committee felt that it was a good program, and voted to recommend that its contract be renewed and to recommend to the Youth Board that the figure be raised to \$25,000. She stated that a letter was sent from the Committee to the Youth Board the next day recommending that the contract be renewed and also that the money allocated be raised to \$25,000.

2. Summer Youth Program

Leslie said that Community Planning Board #11 is in its fifth year of sponsorship of the Summer Youth Program. She said that the Board is negotiating its contract with the Department of Employment. Leslie said that the Board had been told that it can anticipate cutbacks. She said that last year's operating costs were \$12,000, and that the budget would be reduced to \$10,000. She then stated that it had been brought to the Youth Committee's attention that Community Planning Board #11 had underspent by more than \$18,000 in Fiscal Year 1981, and that money was returned to the City. She stated that therefore she was requesting that the Board allocate up to \$2,000 of its budget, if needed, to run the Summer Program.

Tom explained that this money would not be for the youngsters in the program, but for the administration of the program O.T.P.S. and/or perhaps two weeks salary for the Project Director.

Motion by Leslie McHenry - Second by Joe Milone - That Community Planning Board #11 allocate \$2,000 from its budget to be used for the administration of the Summer Youth Program, if needed.

Passed

Leslie said the the youth will be registering during March. She stated that there

- 0 -

Development has proposed the demolition of two private houses. He stated that he had looked at both, and had asked the Housing Committee to look at them. Simeon said that they are unoccupied and appear sound from the outside. He stated that the owner of the house on Holland Avenue had responded to a letter from Tom and thanked him for letting him know of H.P.D.'s action. Simeon said that Tom had spoken with the owner and he expects to rehabilitate the house.

Motion by Simeon Goldstein - Second by Lew Goldstein - That 2930 Morgan Avenue and 2208 Holland Avenue not be demolished, but that they be sealed.

Unanimous

Tom suggested that a letter be sent to the owner of the Holland Avenue house stating that if he does not start rehabilitation by March 10th, the Board will ask that it be sealed.

Accepted

C. Environmental Protection

Ernie Odierna reported that the Environmental Protection Committee had met last night with the Chester Civic Association. He stated that they had discussed the issues of concern to that particular area. Ernie said that the Committee will be giving a written report after a meeting with Superintendent Oliva. He said that the Committee would be meeting with Superintendent Oliva to get a progress report on the items previously requested.

Ernie stated that the Committee had voted to recommend that the Board support the Beverage Container Deposit Law. He said that this means a deposit of five cents on every soda and beer sold in New York City.

Motion by Ernie Odierna - Second by Lew Goldstein - That Community Planning Board #11 support this bill.

Passed

D. Parks

Elizabeth Brown reported that her Committee had met on February 10th to discuss the problem with the Multi-site Improvement Project at Zimmerman Playground. She stated that the money for this Multi-site Improvement was for four playgrounds. Elizabeth said that some of the work was done in Zimmerman, but that the contractor has moved on, and the work seems to be incomplete. She stated that they have been trying to reach Mr. Santos regarding their questions. Elizabeth said that his response has been slow. She said that a letter was sent to Mr. Santos on January 27th, which to date has not been answered. Elizabeth said that she has since been put in touch with a new public relations officer who has said that the Commission would be willing to meet with her and the Chairpersons of the two other Boards who have joint interest in Bronx Park.

Parks Committee Recommendations

1. That the Board request Mr. Santos to meet with the Executive Committee or the Parks Committee..

2. That the Board take action on a letter received from the Morris Park Softball League on removing the basketball backboards at Loretto Park.

is an income requirement, and that all youngsters planning to register must have a social security number.

Leslie said that the Committee recommended that Joanne Gray, the Project Director of last year's program be rehired.

Motion by Leslie McHenry - Second by Myra Rose - That Community Planning Board #11 rehire Joanne Gray as Project Director.

Passed

Lew Goldstein asked for volunteers to register the applicants and check the applications. He stated that it will be from 2:30 to 5:30.

3. Youth Services Committee

Leslie stated that as the January meeting was cancelled because of snow, there will be another meeting on March 11th. She said that notices will be sent out.

F. Community Development and Budget Priorities

1. Budget Priorities

Ruth Bernstein reported that the Board's first ten priorities had been funded. She stated that funding for the precinct was underfunded by \$210,000 and, that all the proper people were alerted and this error was rectified.

Ruth stated that the Board's #5 priority, street lighting in Morris Park Area, had received a commitment for a study and a report by April. She said that this will give the Board time to take appropriate action.

2. Bronxdale Pool Feasibility Study

Ruth stated that there was a meeting with the Chairmen and Co-Chairmen of the Economic Development Committee, Budget Committee and Land Use Committee to discuss the feasibility study for the Bronxdale Pool. Ruth stated that the Board had learned that this feasibility study has a deadline, and must be discussed. She stated that the Board had received copies of the proposed scope of the study to be performed. She explained that the purpose of the meeting with the three committees was to look at the scope, discuss it and make comments and recommendations to the Board, to be sent to the Borough President before the scope is bid on.

Ruth discussed the three parts of the feasibility study.

1. Determine the need for a community center in Community District #11.
2. Physical design, in part.
3. Financial and operational feasibility.

She stated that the other part of the scope is the other possible uses of the Bronxdale Pool. She read the scope to the Board. Ruth said that she had held a meeting the other night at which in attendance were Dom Castore, Sal Napolitano, Charlie Re, Elizabeth Brown, Myra Rose, Tom Brown, and herself. Ruth said that they agreed with the study, and suggested the removal of one item - I.a.7. - Whether there are substitutes or better alternative sites for a community facility in

Community District #11. She stated that she felt that this should be removed. Ruth stated that the Committee recommends that the Board accept this scope with the removal of I.a.7. Ruth said that the study itself should be finished in four months from the date that the contract for its performance is signed.

Motion by Steve Zarkin - Second by Rhoda Gogatz - That Community Planning Board #11 accept the report and approve the scope with the removal of I.a.7.

Approved.

The District Manager was directed to send copies of the scope to all Board Members.

G. Health and Social Services

1. 1858 Victor Street

Myra Rose stated that the Community Residence at 1858 Victor Street opened in October. She stated that the Program Director, Terry O'Neill, was supposed to contact the Committee about the Advisory Board, and has not done so. She said that she had tried to impress upon the operators (Catholic Guardian Society) that it is very important that an Advisory Committee be set up immediately. Myra said that as soon as they contact her, she will contact the neighborhood associations.

Myra said that the Wallace Avenue site was supposed to open in February, but due to boiler problems will not open until March.

2. 2225 Lodovick Avenue

Myra stated that Mr. Carmichael of Bronx Developmental Services has not responded to the Board's letter. She stated that his secretary had called the Board office, and stated that he was most anxious to meet with the people from the Board and the community, and that he wants to set up a meeting immediately. Myra said that she had learned that the contract to alter the building has been let already, and she felt that the Committee should meet with Mr. Carmichael.

Myra stated that a tentative meeting had been set up for Tuesday at 2:00 P.M.

Discussion took place on how this time was not convenient for the community, and that it should be a night meeting.

Motion by Tony Funigiello - Second by Rita Bolstad - That copies of the letter to Mr. Carmichael be sent to his supervisor with an explanation that he has not responded to the Board's request.

3. Einstein - Montefiore Hospital

Ruth Weiss asked if the Board was aware or had been informed of the possibility of moving services from Einstein to Montefiore Hospital.

Myra explained how the Board had learned about this.

A great deal of discussion took place on the possibility of services being moved from Einstein to Montefiore Hospital.

Tom explained that he became aware of a meeting on this when he was attempting

Redistricting of Morris Park Community

Motion by Simeon Goldstein - Second by Joe Reda - That Community Planning Board #11 go on record as protesting the redistricting of Morris Park Community into two separate Assembly districts.

For 22

Passed

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Lew Goldstein (TB)

Lew Goldstein,
Secretary

ATTENDANCE AT FEBRUARY 18, 19 MEETING *

PRESENT

Ruth Bernstein	(0)	Michael LaGuardia	(0)
Rita Bolstad	(0)	William Liblick	(1)
Elizabeth Brown	(0)	Leslie McHenry	(0)
Dominic Castore	(0)	Thomas Miller	(0)
John Cifichiello	(0)	Joseph Milone	(0)
Arthur DeLuca	(0)	Ernest Odierna	(1)
Pat DeMartino	(0)	Abraham Pereira	(0)
Gloria DiGianni	(0)	Joseph Reda	(0)
Kenneth Fleisser	(0)	William Ricevuto	(0)
Nora Fox	(0)	Blanche Comras Rifkin	(0)
Barbara Fried	(0)	Myra Rose	(0)
Anthony Funigiello	(0)	Shirley Rubman	(0)
Rhoda Gogatz	(1)	Madeline Saltaformaggio	(0)
Lew Goldstein	(0)	Ruth Weiss	(0)
Simeon Goldstein	(0)	Henry Yuspeh	(0)
Romolo Imundi	(0)	Steve Zarkin	(1)
Simon Konovitch	(0)		

ABSENT

Robert Black	(2)	Lee Mager	(2)
Ruth Burko	(1)	Silvio Mazzella	(2)
Edith Conato	(2)	Frank Muccioli	(2)
Ann Danisi	(1)	Salvatore Napolitano	(1)
Israel Greenberg	(1)	Charles Re	(2)
Steve Lovitch	(2)	Jerry Santarpia	(2)

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Eileen Weinrib - Rep. Senator Bernstein
Arnold Linhardt - Rep. Assemblyman Eliot Engel

STAFF, BOROUGH PRESIDENT, AND AGENCY OFFICIALS:

Robert Nolan - Rep. Borough President Simon
Andrea Pereira - City Planning
Thomas J. Brown - District Manager of Community Planning Board #11
Harriet Lasky - Secretary, Community Planning Board #11

GUESTS

Priscilla Crowell - Eastchester Houses Tenant Association
Edward Davis - Eastchester Houses Tenant Association
Earl Kellman - Eastchester Houses Tenant Association
Det. Tom Lyons - 47th Precinct
Angelo Campanaro - Observing for Assemblyman Marchiselli
Margaret Grasso - Parkside Community Center

* The absences noted in parentheses reflect the recent approved changes to the By-Laws regarding attendance. That is, only absences from regularly scheduled Board meetings since January 1, 1982 are included; absences from Public Hearings are not included as these absences no longer count towards grounds for removal of Board membership.