

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 OCTOBER 20, 1983 AT THE KNIGHTS  
OF COLUMBUS - MARY, QUEEN OF PEACE LODGE

The meeting was called to order at 8:10 P.M. by Dom Castore, Chairman.

I. Gallery Session

a. Melvin Hirsch

Mr. Hirsch spoke about the MTA and the money it has received to upgrade subway stations. He stated that when the State or City builds or rebuilds a structure they must make access for the handicapped. Mr. Hirsch said that of the stations to be rebuilt, 27 are to have access for the handicapped. He discussed the wheelchair buses, and said that the Gruman wheelchair lifts do not work. Mr. Hirsch spoke about the lift equipment, its maintenance, its accessibility for the handicapped and senior citizens. He stated that the 27 stations that are to be upgraded would allow the handicapped to use the subways.

Questions were asked of Mr. Hirsch by several Board members.

Mr. Hirsch discussed the stations in the Bronx that they wanted to make accessible for the handicapped. He discussed the problems with the Gruman buses. He stated that the GMC buses, whose lifts do work are only in service in Manhattan. Mr. Hirsch asked that this be made an Expense Budget item.

b. Angelo Campanaro - Chester Civic Association

Mr. Campanaro reported that there will be a demonstration against the MTA garage on Tuesday in front of the MTA Headquarters at 347 Madison Avenue between 44th and 45th Streets from 11:30 A.M. - 2:00 P.M. He stated that this time slot would allow people in Manhattan a chance to attend. Mr. Campanaro stated that a bus would be leaving from Holy Rosary Church at 10:00 A.M. for those who wished to attend.

Mr. Campanaro spoke about an article which appeared in the New York Times on September 23rd about youth gangs in the city. Mr. Campanaro discussed the article in depth. He also discussed the youth programs that operate in Community District #11. Mr. Campanaro asked that the Board respond to this article. He stated that Chester Civic has responded to this article in the Bronx Press Review. Mr. Campanaro said that he has copies of the article for anyone who wanted to see it.

Dom asked Angelo to give a copy of the article to Bill Liblick, and he asked Bill to write an article on it.

c. Annette Modena

Ms. Modena stated that she is a homeowner on Matthews Avenue. She said that there is a very unsanitary condition under the trestle on Brady and Matthews Avenues. Ms. Modena said that the pigeons congregate there, people throw garbage there and there is graffiti there.

Tom Brown said that he had spoken to Sanitation about the area today.

Ms. Modena asked that something be done about the pigeons.

Tom said that he had spoken with the MTA about this several years ago, and that they had sworn they they had put poison down. Tom explained that they are not putting anything too strong out now as there are fears of household pets ingesting it.

d. Mr. Modena

Mr. Modena said that youngsters throw stones at the pigeons and kill them. He said that the dead pigeons lie around for several days.

Tom said that when the Clean Team comes around they will take care of this. He stated that the only thing that can be done is to request cleaning.

e. Richie Bisonga - 2005 Hering Avenue

Mr. Bisonga spoke about the recent auto thefts on his block. He stated that houses were also being broken into during the day. Mr. Bisonga stated that six cars were stolen in one week.

Captain DiGregorio spoke. He stated that when the 49th Precinct opens he hoped that there would be a reduction in thefts and burglaries.

Several Board members asked Captain DiGregorio questions about crime in the neighborhood.

f. Emanuel Liggio

Mr. Liggio spoke about the speeders on Morris Park Avenue.

g. Bernie Carr - Neighborhood Initiatives Development Corporation (N.I.D.C.)

Mr. Carr explained what N.I.D.C. does. He stated that its sponsors are Beth Abraham Hospital, Jewish Community Council of Pelham Parkway, Albert Einstein College Hospital, Association of West Bronx Jewish Councils, Bronx House and St. Lucy's. Mr. Carr stated that he was here tonight to ask the Board's support for a proposal to the State Department of Housing and Community Renewal. He said that this program, called Urban Initiatives, supplies construction money to do revitalization work in severely needy areas in New York City. Mr. Carr said that one of the few areas in Community Board #11 that is eligible for this funding is the area along Allerton Avenue west of White Plains Road - 665 and 690 Allerton Avenue. He stated that both buildings have deteriorated badly over the years. Mr. Carr said that the stores have also deteriorated badly. He said that the ownership has changed, and that they have spoken with the new owner who is interested in renovating the building. He said that what N.I.D.C. is trying to do is to obtain money for the renovations of the stores. Mr. Carr stated that in order to do this they need a letter of support.

from the Community Planning Board.

Discussion took place on the stores, and Dom said that this matter would be discussed during the business portion of the meeting.

Mr. Carr said that the Allerton Avenue Merchants Association is sponsoring a street festival and sale days on November 4th and 5th. He stated that this will be a street sale. Mr. Carr said that music will be supplied by Columbus High School and that McDonald's is supplying the Grimace. He asked for the Board's permission to go ahead with the sale days.

Dom said that this request would be discussed later. He suggested that they get in touch with the neighborhood associations as well.

## II. Minutes

### Corrections

Rhoda Gogatz stated that on page 6 in Jerry Riconda's report on the Summer Youth Employment Program he says that there were 13 work sponsors, but that only 8 were listed. She stated that it should read: some of the sponsors were.

Tom explained that there were 3 housing projects and that if they were broken down it would add up to 13.

Rhoda stated that on page 7 it stated that Rhoda read a letter from the Metropolitan New York Council on Jewish Poverty. She said that it should have read the Metropolitan New York Coordinating Council on Jewish Poverty.

Motion by Rhoda Gogatz - Second by Blanche Rifkin - That the Minutes be accepted as corrected.

Unanimously accepted

## III. District Manager's Report

Tom reported that the District Service Cabinet Minutes from the September meeting were distributed. He stated that this past month he had spent working on the budget recommendations which are on the Agenda for tonight. Tom said that he had also distributed a notice that the Board had received about 3 items that are going to appear on the ballot in November. Tom stated that one of them deals with Community Board's and could effect Community Board #11 because its population is slightly below 100,000. He spoke about the other items - the deletion of the councilman-at-large position, and the study commission on councilmanic distric lines.

Bob Black asked about a traffic study of the Allerton Circle with regard to the light sequencing.

Tom said that he would look into it.

## IV. Borough President's Report

Warren Castaneria reported that the:

1. Board of Estimate approved extra work on an existing contract with the Department of General Services (without public letting) in connection with general construction work at Bronx Zoo, totaling \$4,820.
2. Board of Estimate approved a contract (withoug public letting) for the purchase of and installation of a telephone switching system etc., at the

new 49th Precinct, totaling \$40,054.

3. Board of Estimate approved a contract for extra work (without public letting) in connection with the reconstruction of the roof at the former Williamsbridge Court House, totaling #2,357.

Warren also reported that Borough President Simon is urging the Council to rename a block outside St. Benedict's Church in Throgg's Neck after Terrence Cardinal Cooke. He stated that the street to be named Cardinal Cooke Plaza is between Edison and Logan Avenues.

## V. Committee Reports

### A. Community Development & Budget Priorities

Bob Black spoke. He stated that the Committee had felt that the three most important items are Police, Education and Housing. He said that the Committee had put aside its individual priorities and decided what the community needed as a whole.

Lewis Goldstein commended Bob and the Committee for a job well done.

Motion by Lewis Goldstein - No Second - That item #18 - Construction of Pedestrian Ramps be given a #10 priority.

Discussion took place on this and Tom elaborated on the monies that Lewis said were available.

Henry Yuspeh requested that the band shell for Comras Mall be included in the Board's budget requests. Bob explained why it had been omitted.

Tony Funigiello asked about the closed playground at Eastchester Road and Gun Hill Road. Tom said that he would look into when it will be reopened.

Bill Liblick requested that item #11 - Commercial Revitalization of Allerton-Williamsbridge Road Commercial Strip be moved up to one of the first 5 priorities.

Bill Ricevuto asked why Williamsbridge Road was not included in priority #14 - Improve Street Lighting in Morris Park Avenue Commercial District. Tom said that this was just in the title, but that the description includes work on Williamsbridge Road.

Dom explained that this would be done in 3 phases, and he explained each of the 3 phases in detail.

Tom said that when the budget forms are prepared Williamsbridge Road will be included in the title.

Ruth Burko requested that item #37 - Modernization of Christopher Columbus High School be moved up. Ruth explained that this was originally a #4 priority of the Board of Education, and that it had been pulled out of that slot and placed lower down.

Dom said that it should become a high priority, and that a letter should be sent.

Motion by Bob Black - Second by Blanche Rifkin - That item #37 become item #2 and that everything else be moved down.

Passed

Motion by Bob Black - Second by Henry Yuspeh - That the request for a band shell at Comras Mall become item #31, and that item #36 be deleted and everything after item #31 be moved down.

Passed

Motion by Bill Liblick - Second by Ruth Burko- That item #12 (old item #11) Commercial Revitalization of Allerton -Williamsbridge Strip be moved up to item #11

For 7 Against 10 Abstain 2

Motion defeated

The accuracy of the hand count was challenged and another vote was taken.

For 12 Against 10

Passed

This vote was challenged also and a roll call vote was requested.

For 16 Against 14 Abstain 1, 1 member was not present when a roll call vote was taken and the Chairman does not vote.

Passed

#### Expense Budget

Motion by Lee Mager - Second by Joe Reda - That the Expense Budget be accepted as received.

Passed

A list of Priorities is attached to these Minutes

Motion by Rhoda Gogatz - Second by Lee Mager - That Tom Brown and/or the the Committee be authorized to prioritize the service forms according to the tallies submitted by the Planning Board members and submit these in the name of the entire Board.

Passed

Bob Black thanked the Committee and Tom Brown for the work they had done on the budget.

Dom thanked the Committee and Bob for a job well done.

#### B. Housing

##### 1. 2144 Bronx Park East

Simeon Goldstein reported that the Executive Committee had been asked to send a letter to H.P.D. supporting the rehabilitation loan application for this building.

2. 754 Mace Avenue

Simeon stated that this is an apartment building which has many problems which have been discussed previously. He said that progress has been made and that the owner has removed many violations.

3. Allerton Coops

Simeon stated that at the last meeting Frank Muccioli had suggested that a meeting take place between the tenants and the owner of the Allerton Coops. He said that the meeting has not taken place as yet because they are waiting for H.P.D.'s inspection report to determine which violations have been removed and which have not been removed.

Frank stated that H.P.D. had sent inspectors. He said that the tenants had taken out a court order against the landlord, and that they had requested that inspectors be sent. Frank said that he believed that inspectors had been sent. Frank said that a meeting is tentatively set for November 1st or 6th.

Discussion took place on 2144 Bronx Park East.

Brenda Petri asked why it took H.P.D. so long---three years---to review the application for this building, why given that it has taken so long, it was so urgent for the Executive Committee to act before coming to the entire Board, and is the current owner the same as the one who owned the building when the application was first made?

Tom said that he could not answer why the H.P.D. process was so lengthy with respect to the application for this building. He said that the Pelham Parkway Office of H.P.D. had been informed that the Review Panel would be making a decision the week that the Executive Committee met, and that there was not sufficient time for the entire Board to consider this. Finally, Tom said that the support was for the need for rehabilitation. He said that the Executive Committee could only assume that H.P.D. had made appropriate checks on the owner and that it was not particularly relevant if the current owner is the same person who originally applied for the loan. (Tom failed to state that the Executive Committee, in its letter to H.P.D., noted that it is aware that certain steps have been taken to insure that the owner properly maintains the building).

C. Economic Development

1. 1750 Van Buren Street

Sal Napolitano reported that at the last meeting a letter was read from H.P.D. asking that the Board recommend a grocery store at 1750 Van Buren Street. Sal stated that because this letter was received the day of the Board meeting, and there had been no time for the Committee to look into it, it had been tabled until tonight's meeting.

Motion by Sal Napolitano - Second by Bob Black - That Community Planning Board #11 supports any efforts to develop the area economically as long as it meets lawful requirements of the area, and that a stipulation be included in the store leases that no video games be allowed on the premises, and that improvements to the facade be made.

Discussion took place on the fact that there was another grocery store located near that address.

Motion passed.

Motion by Sal Napolitano - Second by Bill Liblick - That Community Planning Board #11 establish a committee, and that the Executive Committee be part of that committee, to review the situation of the Allerton Avenue revitalization, and to either send a letter of recommendation or not, as it deems right.

Passed.

D. Public Safety

Joe Reda spoke about the 49th Precinct. He stated that it is progressing very slowly, and should be ready for occupancy in February. Joe also spoke about crime in our area. He stated that people have to be more aware of what is going on in their areas and to contact the police if they are suspicious of anything or anyone. Joe spoke about the recent robberies of houses and stated that they were being broken into at all hours of the day and night.

Frank asked for more police in the area at 3:00 P.M. when Columbus High School lets out.

Joe explained why police cars are not seen in the area as often as people would like them to be. Basically, it is because they are constantly responding to calls and there are not enough officers available for cruising.

Eli asked what was being done about the stores that front for drugs and numbers.

Police Officer Paul Martin spoke. He stated that Grand Theft Larceny and other crimes have a higher police priority than drugs and numbers. He said that there were not enough police to cover everything and everywhere.

E. Parks

As Elizabeth Brown was not present, Henry Yuspeh gave the report.

Henry read a letter from U-S Recreation, Inc. commending the Board for its work in getting the mini pools open. He stated that, besides the letter, the Board had received an award.

Henry reported that the Board had received the drawings for the Trojan Field Tennis Court.

Motion by Henry Yuspeh - Second by Lee Mager - That the Parks Committee be empowered to review the drawings and respond to the Parks Department in the name of the Board.

Some discussion took place on the drawings, and Tom explained that these were not final drawings and could be changed, if necessary.

F. Youth

Ray Locascio reported that the Committee had met on October 18th. He said that several proposals have been received by the Board. Ray said he had learned that the Board has, or is going to receive another, from the Morris Park Community Association. Ray said the Board has received notice that proposals have been submitted by the Allerton Avenue Home-owners and Tenants Association, B.O.L.D., and the Bronx Council on the Arts. Ray said that these proposals would be discussed at the next Youth Committee meeting on November 9th.

Ray reported that the Screening Committee would be meeting on 2 consecutive nights to interview applicants for the position of Youth Coordinator. He said that they hoped to come up with 2, 3 or 4 candidates to present to the Board at its December meeting.

A question was asked about the lack of a proposal from the Morris Park Association and Tom explained why it was not included on the list. He stated that the Youth Board had received it late.

Ray stated that 22 of the 30 members of the Youth Services Committee had attended the meeting.

#### G. Health and Social Services

Bill Liblick reported that the Board had received a proposal for a community residence. He stated that the sponsoring agency is the Puerto Rican Family Institute and that the site is 3050 Laconia Avenue. Bill said that a Public Hearing must be held and that a vote must be taken within 40 days of receipt of the notice, which was October 6th.

Motion by Bill Liblick - Second by \_\_\_\_\_ - That Community Planning Board #11 hold a Public Hearing on 3050 Laconia Avenue on November 10th.

Frank suggested that a meeting be arranged before the Public Hearing among the agency, the Board, and representatives of community organizations. Bill said this is planned.

Tom said that he would look into using Eastchester Gardens Community Center as a site for the Public Hearing.

Rhoda reported that an article appeared in today's Bronx Press Review about a Public Hearing to be held on Thursday at 7:00 P.M. at the Nurses Residence at Bronx Municipal Hospital Center, with reference to G.L.I.E. II, a second residence for autistic children. She stated that the Board had approved the opening of G.L.I.E. II, and had requested that it be informed when a Public Hearing was to be held.

Rhoda read a copy of a letter on the Public Hearing which was sent to Dom Castore, but was sent to the wrong address and was never received by him.

Tom read the letter that the Board had sent in 1982 to both O.M.R.D.D. and B.M.H.C., approving of G.L.I.E. II.

Motion by Rhoda Gogatz - Second by Joe Reda - That a representative of Community Planning Board #11 go to the Public Hearing.

Passed with 1 abstention.

#### H. Education

Ruth Burko reported that she had spoken with Grace Rosa, Principal of Christopher Columbus High School, and that the students are no longer being allowed out for lunch. Ruth said that the lunch menu has been improved and that extra tables had been set up.

Ruth stated that Lori McQueen has resigned as Director of the Community Education Resource Center. She said that they are now looking for a fourth director.

#### Health and Social Services

3006 Williamsbridge Road

Rhoda reported that re-negotiations are going on regarding this site. She stated that it is being changed from a rental to sale arrangement.

#### VI. Old Business

##### 1. By-Laws Revision

Discussion took place on the proposed By-Laws Revision.



Motion by Bob Black - Second by Tony Funigiello - That the proposed By-Laws Revision be removed (defeated).

Passed with 2 against.

2. Rhoda expressed her personal sentiments regarding the poor attendance by Board members at its Public Hearing on the Budget on October 12th.

VIII. New Business

Motion by Bill Liblick - Second by Joe Reda - That Community Planning Board #11 send a letter to all the Councilmembers supporting Borough President Simon's request for a change in the name of a street in Throgg's Neck to be called Cardinal Cooke Plaza.

Passed.

Dom reported that Councilman DeMarco had requested that a street near Rota's Steak House be re-named Tony Rota Square. Item was tabled pending committee recommendations.

Rhoda recommended, that at the next year's Budget Consultations, all members of committees make a concerted effort to attend the Agency sessions on the Budget for the committees they are members of.

Frank said this is not always possible because of job commitments of the members.

The Board went into Executive Session at 10:49 P.M.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 11:00 P.M.

Motion by Bob Black - Second by Bill Liblick - That Tom Brown be placed on Level II of the Managerial status.

Passed.

Membership

Motion by Joe Reda - Second by Nick Cremonese - That Community Planning Board #11 remove Tom Miller as a Planning Board member.

Passed.

It was noted that the Board had received a letter of resignation from Rabbi Konovitch.

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Lewis Goldstein,  
Secretary

TB

ATTENDANCE AT BOARD MEETING HELD OCTOBER 10, 1983

PRESENT

Robert Black	William Liblick
Ruth Burko	Raymond Locascio
Dom Castore	Lee Mager
John Cifichello	Joseph Milone
Nicholas Cremonese	Frank Muccioli
Pat DeMartino	Salvatore Napolitano
Gloria DiGianni	Ernest Odierna
Kenneth Fleisser	Brenda Petri
Nora Fox	Michael Prisco
Anthony Funigiello	Charles Re
Rhoda Gogatz	Joseph Reda
Eli Goldsmith	William Ricevuto
Lewis Goldstein	Blanche Rifkin
Simeon Goldstein	Madeline Saltaformaggio
Rabbi Israel Greenberg	Henry Yuspeh
Romolo Imundi	Steve Zarkin
Michael LaGuardia	

ABSENT

Ruth Bernstein	Barbara Fried
Elizabeth Brown	Abraham Kleinman
Silvanis DeBellis	Richard Lipsky
Arthur DeLuca	Steve Lovitch
Norman Engel	Leslie McHenry
Stella Fernandez	Abraham Pereira

EX OFFICIO BOARD MEMBERS

John W. Farrel - Rep. of Hon. Michael DeMarco

OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS

Eric Barr - Rep. Comptroller Harrison Goldin  
Robert McGuire - Rep. of Assemblyman Vincent Marchiselli  
John J. DeGaetano - Rep. of Senator Abraham Bernstein  
Kenneth Kearns - Rep. of Assemblyman Eliot Engel

STAFF, BOROUGH PRESIDENT, AND AGENCY OFFICIALS

John Lavin - Bronx Office of City Planning  
Warren Castaneria - Rep. Bronx Borough President Stanley Simon  
Thomas J. Brown, District Manager - Community Planning Board #11  
Harriet Lasky, Secretary - Community Planning Board #11