

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

JANUARY

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD DECEMBER-19, 1984

AT ST. LUCY'S SCHOOL

The meeting was called to order at 8:14 P.M. by Dom Castore, Chairman.

I. Gallery Session

a. Thal Davis - 2424 Senior Citizen Center

Ms. Davis spoke about President Reagan's Commission on Medicare which has made recommendations on all health services to the elderly, disabled and lowest income pensionaires. She stated that unless something is done these people will lose the medicare that they are now receiving. Thal said that a forum will be held on Wednesday, January 25th at Aging in America, 1500 Pelham Parkway South near the corner of Eastchester Road. She said that there would be four guest speakers both from the State and Washington. Thal explained how important it was for people of all ages to help fight against the loss of medicare for these people. She stated that the forum would be from 9:30 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

b. Angelo Campanaro - Chester Civic Association

Angelo stated that eighteen months ago the Community Action for Human Services had opened a group home for mentally retarded people at 2225 Lodovick Avenue to house twenty clients. He stated that the director of the home has now requested an increase in clients without notifying either the Advisory Board of the home or the community. Angelo said that the Chester Civic Association and the Advisory Board of the home oppose the increase. He stated that he has letters of opposition to the increase from Leroy Carmichael of Bronx Developmental, Assemblyman Eliot Engel, and Senator John Calandra. Angelo asked that the Board send a letter to Commissioner Webb asking that this request for an increase in clients be denied.

II. Minutes

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

Unanimously accepted

III. Presentation by Training and Technical Assistance Unit of Community Action Unit Office of the Mayor

Elsworth Mitchell stated that he is a Training Associate with the Mayor's Community Assistance Unit. He explained that the Community Action Unit works within

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the Office of the Mayor to provide technical assistance programs and support to the fifty-nine Community Board throughout the city, and community groups in the city. He stated that he is here tonight to describe the training programs available to the Board and community groups. He explained that these programs have been selected through a questionnaire that had been sent to the Boards two and a half years ago. He explained the programs in detail:

1. Individual Training and Technical Assistance Program
2. Leadership Development Seminar
3. District Manager's Seminar
4. Planning and Conducting Meetings Workshop
5. Budget Seminar
6. Grantsmanship Seminar
7. Public Relations Workshop

Mr. Mitchell stated that orientation for the new Board members are held every year. He said that it has not been held as yet, but should be held between the end of January and beginning of March. Mr. Mitchell stated that these orientations are co-sponsored by the Borough President's Office. He said that letters would be sent from the Borough President's Office to the Board members when a date is set. He asked that anyone having any ideas about programs that should be held, or who is interested in attending those programs he described to contact him at 566-1272 or Tom Brown.

IV. Introduction of Board Members

The new Board members introduced themselves, along with the rest of the Board and the staff.

V. District Manager's Report

Tom reported that the District Service Cabinet Minutes had been sent out yesterday. For the sake of the new Board members he explained the function of the District Service Cabinet meetings.

B & B Candy Store - 754 Mace Avenue (entrance on Holland Avenue) unlicensed video games

Tom stated that this problem was raised the last time that the Board had met at St. Lucy's. He said that he had been told that the store was only open for one to two hours a day, and that the video machines were not operating. Tom asked anyone knowing otherwise to please let him know. He explained that a license is needed for each video machine, and that a license could be issued if the place was within 200 feet of a school. Tom said that B & B touches P.S. 135.

Tom announced that the City Planning Commission has scheduled a Borough Hearing on the Budget for the Bronx on February 8th at 6 P.M. He stated that he would be there to give the Board's testimony on its top priorities. Tom said that he had just received the Register of Agency responses to these priorities yesterday, and has not had a chance to analyze it yet. He said that the Hearing would be held in the Bronx Courthouse on the second floor.

VI. Borough President's Report

Warren Castaneria reported that:

1. Board of Estimate approved a change order in connection with supervision of construction of White Plains Road, over Amtrack, Unionport Road over Amtrack and Williamsbridge Road over Amtrack.
2. Board of Estimate approved the modification of a contract between the Department of Social Services and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine for the Comprehensive Family Care Center.
3. Board of Estimate approved a contract between the N.Y.C. Youth Board and the Allerton Avenue Homeowners and Tenants Association for the operation of various youth programs from 12/5/83 to 5/31/84, totaling \$19,092.00.
4. Board of Estimate approved a contract for the preparation of plans and specifications in connection with the Modernization of the Fire House Engine Company 90, 1343 White Plains Road, totaling \$19,619.00. This total includes Fire Houses in other Community Boards.
5. Board of Estimate approved a contract for the preparation of plans and specifications in connection with the replacement of windows at Engine Company 97, 1457 Astor Avenue, totaling \$17,433.00. This total includes Fire Houses in other Community Boards.

VII. Committee Reports

Dom stated that the Public Safety Committee would be the first report in order to accomodate the police who were here tonight.

A. Public Safety

Dom introduced Inspector James McKenna, Commander of Zone 8, Captain DiGregerio of the 49th Precinct, Sergeant Phil Romano of Bronx Borough Command Community Affairs, Sergeant Ed Moran of the 43rd Precinct, Officer Jim Straffella of the 43rd Precinct, Officer Paul Martin of the 43rd Precinct, Detective Tom Lyons of the 47th Precinct, and Officer Di Vico who is in charge of Auxiliaries at the 43rd Precinct.

Joe Reda stated that the police were here tonight to discuss the 49th Precinct and why its opening has been delayed. Joe stated that he had spoken with Angela Fowler of the Community Action Unit about the delay. He stated that Inspector McKenna would explain the delay and answer any questions.

Inspector McKenna stated that he had spoken with headquarters, and has been told that the 49th Precinct is scheduled to open June 1, 1984. He stated that the delay is due to construction flaws; not political pressure. Inspector McKenna stated that the Department of General Services is responsible for the construction.

After Inspector McKenna spoke several Board members asked questions about the amount of police that would be staffing the precinct and the numerous changes in scheduled dates for the opening of the precinct. Inspector McKenna explained that staffing would be done according to the formula used for all other precincts, that any reductions in force in the two adjoining precincts would be based on that formula, and that a balance would be struck between seasoned and new officers.

Motion by Lee Mager - Second by Sal Napolitano - That Planning Board #11 go on record with the Office of the Mayor, Office of the Police Commissioner, Borough Command and the Department of General Services asking that any steps necessary that can be taken to expedite the completion of the 49th Precinct and all necessary inspections as to the occupancy of that precinct by the Police Department, be made as soon as possible.

Amended to include on or before June 1, 1984.

Passed

Tony Rizzo asked that the Project Engineer for D.G.S. be asked to come to the Board meeting and speak about the problems.

Tom said that he would try and get him to attend.

Discussion took place on grand theft auto in the district, and Inspector McKenna stated that it has gone down.

Mike Prisco asked if the 47th Precinct officers are going around putting notes on houses saying that the area is patrolled by the 47th Precinct.

Det. Lyons explained that the Chester Civic Association and the people in that area had felt that they are not getting enough protection, as they have not been seeing patrol cars. He stated that at a meeting he had attended it was decided that to make the people feel safer late at night, that the police leave notes on the doors indicating that they are patrolling rather than wake the people up.

Det. Lyons spoke about the auto decal registration program that is available in the 43rd and 47th Precincts. He stated that no car that has been registered and has a decal has been stolen. Det. Lyons stated that Officer Paul Martin, Det. Julie Berlin and he are available to groups to register vehicles.

Norman Engel asked about people not being able to get through to the 47th Precinct.

Captain DiGregorio answered Norman's question. He stated that this problem had come up at a District Service Cabinet meeting. He explained that it is difficult to get through to a number of precincts from time to time due to personnel being trained, the overload of calls, the inability for new help to understand how long to keep a person on hold while talking to another person, etc. He stated that some precincts have installed a recording that tells the caller that your call is being answered electronically and will be answered at the next available moment. He stated that this is not a problem of only the 47th Precinct. Captain DiGregorio stated that if there is an emergency 911 should be called and not the precinct.

Captain DiGregorio said that there is a priority order for 911 calls, and he elaborated on Norman Engel's complaint of police not effectively responding to a complaint of a grand theft auto complaint.

Tom Brown said that the 47th Precinct has given the Associations particular numbers to call **directly on specific conditions**. In this way the load on the precinct's general number can be reduced.

Captain DiGregorio said that calling 920-1236 will get the caller in touch with Lt. Laverty.

Questions were asked about where the man power covering the bus strike is coming from.

Inspector McKenna explained that it is coming from all the precincts.

Dom thanked all the police for coming tonight.

B. Land Use

1. 2179-81 Matthews Avenue

Lee Mager explained that the owner of this property has applied for a renewal of

a Variance allowing him to have tenant space in the basement. He stated that prior to the Executive Committee meeting, Simeon Goldstein, who was then the Chairman of the Land Use Committee and Co-Chairman of the Housing Committee, had been in touch with the landlord. He said that Simeon had inspected the building, even after he learned that he had not been reappointed to the Board, and found the apartment to be in good order. Lee explained why the owner needs a Variance. He said that there have never been any complaints about or violations on this apartment. Lee said that the Executive Committee decided to waive a Public Hearing and recommend to the Board of Standards and Appeals that this Variance renewal be granted.

C. Economic Development

1. Meeting with representatives of Waldbaum's regarding possible application for Special Use Permit on Bronxdale Avenue between Van Nest and East Tremont Avenues.

Sal Napolitano reported that a meeting was held with representatives of Waldbaum's and the Land Use and Economic Development Committees. He stated that Waldbaum's wants to convert the old Gristede's warehouse into a supermarket. Sal explained that Land Use is involved because there is a possibility that Waldbaum's might need a Special Use permit to put in a supermarket on that site. He stated that they propose to remove two-thirds of the structure and leave one-third for the supermarket. He stated that the Board has not received any notice that an application for this has been certified. Sal said that no action is needed by the Board at this time.

D. Youth Services

Ray Locascio reported that a Youth Services meeting was held on January 11th. He stated there are thirty people on the Youth Services Committee. Ray stated that they are now waiting for notice that the Board has been approved as a Project Sponsor for the 1984 Summer Youth Employment Program. He said that when the Board is approved, volunteers will be needed to accept and process the applications from the youngsters. He said the hours would be from 3 to 5 P.M. Ray said a Project Director will have to be hired for the program, once we are approved.

E. Education and Culture

As Ruth Burko was not present, Tom reported that the Eastchester and Parkchester Library dedication ceremonies had been called off due to the weather.

F. Sanitation

1. Stillwell Avenue Sewer

Ernie Odierna stated at the last month's meeting the Stillwell Avenue Sewer Project had been discussed and the problems that were occurring. Ernie said that Tom had researched the project and a copy of the report had been distributed. Ernie explained the report. (REPORT IS ATTACHED).

Tom reported that he had received calls about equipment being put on the bridge over Amtrak's rails near the path leading to Bronx Developmental. Tom said that he initially thought that Sewers had just moved their equipment. He said he learned through someone at U.C.P. that it was Highway's contractor who put the equipment there, and that they were fixing a bridge. Tom said he knew that the bridge was to be repaired but that no date had been specified. Tom said he called Highways and told them about the work. He stated that Highways was not aware that the work was beginning so soon. Tom explained

that when a contractor gets the contract it is usually for several bridges, and he goes from bridge to bridge to meet his scheduling needs. He said no specific dates are given for any particular bridge, only for completion of the entire contract. Tom said that the people who contacted U.C.P. thought that United Cerebral Palsy was working on a cut-through which has been discussed but not approved.

Tom reported that he will attend an on-site meeting tomorrow with Traffic, Police, Highways and Sewers to go over any problems which might arise out of having two projects so close to each other. Tom said they have to look into what traffic re-routing problems, if any, there might be. He said that the Sewer Project is supposed to be completed by July 15th, 1984, and the restoration work is to be completed by September 1st. Tom said he would not know the dates for completion of the bridge work until after tomorrow's meeting.

Ernie asked that if any of the new Board members were interested in joining the Sanitation Committee to let him know.

G. Parks

1. Concessions on or abutting Pelham Parkway

As Elizabeth Brown was not present, Tom gave the report. Tom gave the background on the Board's decision regarding concessions on Pelham Parkway. He stated that the Board had received a call from the Parks Department informing him that someone wants to apply for a concession, and that the Parks Department was recommending to the Arsenal that due to the Board's previously taken position on concessions in Pelham Parkway, that this should be denied.

Tom suggested that the Board take a more definitive position on Pelham Parkway, and rule it off limits for any kind of vending.

Ernie stated that he is opposed to making a motion on something permanently. He explained why he is in favor of the hot-dog stands in front of the hospital.

Motion by Rhoda Gogatz - Second by Bill Liblick - That Community Planning Board #11 reaffirm its position taken last year against vendors on Pelham Parkway.

Motion by Ernie Odierna - Second by Bill Liblick - That this motion be tabled until the next meeting so as to have the exact wording of the Board's position last year.

Motion by Lee Mager - Second by Rhoda Gogatz - That Community Board #11 go on record as being against the granting of any concession for the purposes of selling food, flowers or any items on Pelham Parkway, within 350 feet of the Parks Department property.

For 15 Against 10

Passed.

Abe Pereira asked for a recount vote.

For 14 Against 11 Abstentions 2

Passed.

Dom thanked Monsignor Maltese for the use of St. Lucy's School.

H. Housing

Dom reported that Simeon Goldstein had not been reappointed.

As Frank Muccioli was not present, Tom gave the report. He stated that the Board had received a request from the Neighborhood Initiatives Development Corporation to support an application it is making for a one-shot short-term Community Consultant contract to study mortgage situations in District #11 of multiple dwellings where there are 3, 4 or 5 mortgages on the property, and what impact this condition is having on the ability of landlords to obtain H.P.D. Participation and Article 8A rehabilitation loans. Tom said that N.I.D.C. is requesting \$18,000 for this study.

Motion by Lee Mager - Second by Abe Pereira - That Community Board #11 approve N.I.D.C.'s request for support.

Tom explained where the money was coming from.

Motion by Sal Napolitano - Second by Brenda Petri - That this item be tabled until the Housing Committee can study it and report back to the Board.

For 20 Against 5 Abstentions 1

Carried.

I. Highways, Traffic and Transportation

1. Loading Zone for Chesbrough Textiles.

As Pat DeMartino was not present, Tom gave the report. He stated that at the November meeting the Board had voted to approve a loading zone for Chesbrough Textiles which would not exceed 25 feet. He said that at the December meeting he received a call from Traffic stating it felt that 25 feet was not enough. Tom said that the Board felt it should not change its decision until it received this in writing. Tom said that he now has this in writing from Traffic, and that Traffic wants to know if the Board is going to change its request.

Motion by Henry Yuspeh - Second by Joe Reda - That Community Planning Board #11 accept Traffic's recommendation and change its original request for a loading zone not to exceed 25 feet to 100 feet.

For 24 Abstentions 2

Passed.

Tom reported that Traffic has received a request from Councilman DeMarco to make Pierce Avenue one-way eastbound and Sackett Avenue one-way westbound between Bronxdale and Tenbroeck Avenues. He stated that Traffic wants to know how the Board feels about it.

Motion by Rhoda Gogatz - Second by Lewis Goldstein - That this item be tabled and referred to the Highways Committee for study.

For 25 Abstentions 1

Passed.

Tom reported that the application to lease the unconstructed portion of Barnes Avenue for the purpose of a garden and recreation was denied by the Department of General Services.

J. Health and Social Services

Bill Liblick stated that as of February 1st he will be on the Advisory Board of

Bronx Municipal Hospital Center. He said that he would have a report on it next month.

Bill reported that there is going to be a Public Hearing on the Causes and Affects of Staff Shortages at Psychiatric Centers. He explained in detail what this dealt with.

Tom stated that at last month's meeting Blanche Rifkin had reported that Bronx Psychiatric had lost its accreditation.

Blanche explained the reasons why Bronx Psychiatric lost its accreditation.

Discussion took place on this and the rumors going on about who the new director would be.

Motion by Lee Mager - Second by Blanche Rifkin - That the Health and Social Services Committee be empowered by the Board to take findings and take a position on behalf of the Board at any hearings to be held.

For 22 Abstentions 1

Passed.

2225 Lodovick Avenue

Motion by Anthony Rizzo - Second by Rhoda Gogatz - That Community Board #11 send a letter to Commissioner Webb asking that he not grant the request of the director of 2225 Lodovick Avenue to increase the clients at that home.

Passed with 2 against and 2 abstentions.

VIII. Old Business

1. 1750 Melville Street

Tom asked John Lavin of the Bronx Office of City Planning if he knows if any proposals have been received on this building.

John said that none had been.

Tom said that they have until January 27th to file a proposal, and after that date he would contact Ted Weinstein and ask that it be demolished, if nothing has been received.

2. Office Space

Tom reported that 4 or 5 sets of drawings and conditions for renovation were sent to contractors who indicated in telephone conversations that they are interested in bidding on this work. Tom said the bids are due by January 25th. He stated that the officers of the Executive Committee will review the bids and award the contract.

3. Several Board members complained about the job Sanitation has done in removing snow on the north side of the Parkway and Bronx River Parkway.

IX. New Business

Bill Liblick stated that he is very disappointed that Simeon Goldstein was not re-appointed.

Motion by Bill Liblick - Second by Rhoda Gogatz - That Community Board #11 send a letter to the elected officials urging them to reconsider the reappointment of Simeon Goldstein.

Discussion took place on whether or not a letter should be sent to the elected officials when they have representatives on the Board who will report back to them.

Amended to include that it also be sent to the Borough President.

Discussion took place on the fact that, at the swearing in, the Borough President said that he does not want any letters sent and that communications should go through his representative.

Amended by Bill Liblick that a letter not be sent, but that the Board's sentiment on Simeon be communicated through the Borough President's representative.

Warren stated that it would be reported to the Borough President.

Motion by Bill Liblick - Second by _____ - That the Board take a stand against the non-reappointment of Simeon Goldstein based on his hard work on the Community Board.

A great deal of discussion took place on this.

For	17	Against	1	Abstentions	8
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Passed.

Meeting adjourned at 10:17 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Lewis Goldstein (TB)
 Lewis Goldstein,
 Secretary

ATTENDANCE AT COMMUNITY BOARD MEETING - JANUARY 19, 1984

PRESENT

Dominic Castore	Lee Mager
John Cifichiello	Sal Napolitano
Nicholas Cremonese	Ernest Odierna
Anthony DelGaudio	Abraham Pereira
Thomas Denaro	Brenda Petri
Norman Engel	Michael Prisco
Kenneth Fleisser	Charles Re
Nora Fox	Joseph Reda
Anthony Funigiello	William Ricevuto
Rhoda Gogatz	Blanche Comras Rifkin
Lewis Goldstein	Anthony Rizzo
Romolo Imundi	Madeline Saltaformaggio
William Liblick	Alfred Tartaglia
Raymond Locascio	Henry Yuspeh

ABSENT

Robert Black	Rabbi Israel Greenberg
Elizabeth Brown	Abraham Kleinman
Ruth Burko	Michael LaGuardia
Pat DeMartino	Steve Lovitch
Gloria DiGianni	Leslie McHenry
Stella Fernandez	Joseph Milone
Kenneth Gelnick	Frank Muccioli
Eli Goldsmith	Steve Zarkin

EX OFFICIO BOARD MEMBERS

John Farrell - Rep. of Hon. Michael DeMarco

OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS

R. W. McGuire - Rep. of Assemblyman Vincent Marchiselli
Kenneth Kearns - Rep. of Assemblyman Eliot Engel
Ronnie Albert - Rep. of Assemblyman John Dearie

STAFF, BOROUGH PRESIDENT, AND AGENCY OFFICIALS

Tom Brown - District Manager, Community Board #11
Harriet Lasky - Secretary, Community Board #11
Warren Castaneria - Bronx Borough President Simon's Office
John Lavin - Bronx Office of City Planning
Capt. B. DiGregorio - 49th Police Precinct
Inspector James McKenna - Commander of Zone 8
Det. Thomas Lyons - 47th Police Precinct
Sgt. Ed Moran - 43rd Police Precinct
Off. Jim Strafella - 43rd Police Precinct
Off. Paul Martin - 43rd Police Precinct
Off. DiVico - 43rd Police Precinct, Auxiliaries

GUESTS

Thal Davis - 2424 Boston Road Senior Citizens Center
Sgt. Phil Romano - Bronx Borough Command, Community Affairs
Deborah Laud - J.H.S. 135, Parents Association
Peggy Braverman - District Leader, 81st A.D. Part A