



COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD # 11, THE BRONX

Bronx Municipal Hospital Center
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Frank Muccioli,
Chairman

Fernando Ferrer,
Borough President

Thomas Lucania,
District Manager

COMMITTEES

- Community Development & Budget Priorities
- Economic Development
- Education & Culture
- Health & Social Services
- Highways, Traffic & Transportation
- Housing
- Land Use
- Parks & Playgrounds
- Public Safety
- Sanitation & Environmental Protection
- Youth Services Planning

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 1995 IN

THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, MARY QUEEN OF PEACE HALL

The meeting was called to order at 8:40 P.M. by Frank Muccioli, Chairman.

I. Gallery Session

a. Frank Boone - T.W.U.

Mr. Boone spoke about the One Person Train Operation as proposed by the New York City Transit Authority. He stated that this will remove conductors from the trains. Mr. Boone stated that the TA has gone to the Civil Service Commission and asked for a change in job description for the title of Train Operator. The change that the TA is asking for is to include "Door Operation and Automatic Train Operation" as part of the duties of the Train Operator. Mr. Boone stated that for safety sake the TA encourages customers to ride in the Conductor's car during off hours. If there is no conductor, there is no safe car to ride in. He stated that this is a very unsafe condition.

Questions were asked by board members and information was distributed.

Frank welcomed Judith Scott of the Bronx Times Reporter; Helen Korman, representing Councilman Michael DeMarco; Annette Marchitello, representing Borough President Fernando Ferrer; Danny Cestaro, representing Senator Joseph Galiber and Assemblyman Jeffrey Klein; P.O. Nick Stanich of the 49th Precinct's Community Affairs office.

b. Frank Milanese

Mr. Milanese stated that behind Sackett and Hone Avenues, Sackett Avenue and Williamsbridge Road, Sackett and Paulding Avenues there are railroad tracks which have become a dumping grounds. He stated that Amtrak owns this strip and has neglected the area. Mr. Milanese stated that the fence is broken and that there are rodents.

Thomas spoke on this and stated that he will try and get sanitation to go out there. He also spoke about the problem with Amtrak and the city as to who is responsible for this area.

c. Jeff Silverberg

Mr. Silverberg spoke about the Dyre Avenue line at the Pelham Parkway Station. He stated that after 8 P.M. the token booth is closed. He also spoke about the graffiti. He stated that the graffiti artists get into the station every week after it is cleaned and do it again. Mr. Silverberg also spoke about the fact that when it rains the steps get slippery and it is very dangerous. He also spoke about broken light bulbs.

d. Rhoda Gogatz

Mrs. Gogatz spoke about the nursing homes and how the budget cuts will affect the elderly. She stated that there are people who have home attendants at the present time, and that if they lose the home attendant the government is saying they will have to go into nursing homes. However, nursing homes are skilled care facilities and many of the elderly require custodial care as opposed to skilled nursing care and therefore will not be eligible. Rhoda also stated that the government should investigate the Medicaid physicians and Medicaid pharmacies regarding inflated medical and prescription billing.

e. P.O. Nick Stanich

P.O. Stanich stated that he has spent 10 years walking a beat on Morris Park Avenue. He stated that he was a Youth Officer and he has worked with many community leaders over the years.

P.O. Stanich spoke about the Sector Police Program. He stated that there are 15 sergeants and each sergeant has his own sector with officers under him. P.O. Stanich stated that there are 5 sectors in the precinct. He also said that with this program if a problem occurs in a particular sector the Captain can call the sergeant in and ask him what his officers are doing.

P.O. Stanich stated that arrests are up and crime is down in the 49th Precinct. He stated that the Narcotics Operation and Operation Losing Proposition are in effect. Cars are being stopped and road blocks have been set up to check registrations, etc. P.O. Stanich stated that he is in charge of the graffiti program.

f. Thal Davis

Mrs. Davis stated that on February 14, 1500 seniors went to Albany to protest the budget cuts. Mrs. Davis stated that they made recommendations to the governor on cutting funds. Mrs. Davis stated that on she was going to attend the President's Conference at the White House. Mrs. Davis stated that 60 recommendations were made, but that they were cut to 30.

g. Anthony Fishetti - Van Nest Library

Mr. Fishetti thanked the members of the board for their help over the last year.

Thomas said that the graffiti on the library walls will be removed, and that when it is done he will contact P.O. Stanich to do the graffiti stake out.

II. Minutes

A Correction was made by Ruth Burko. She stated that she had reported on the Coalition of Public Libraries meeting of January 10th, but had not attended it.

A Motion was made by Rhoda Gogatz, Seconded by Dominic Castore
- That the Minutes be accepted as corrected.

Passed unanimously.

IV. Chairman's Report - Frank Muccioli

1. Appointment of Nominations Committee for board officers for 1995-96

Frank stated that the Committee will consist of Anthony DelGaudio; Rhoda Gogatz; Blanche Rifkin; Ralph Lanzilli and Leslie McHenry, Chairperson.

Frank stated that if any member of this committee cannot remain on this committee due to a possible conflict, to please let him know.

Frank reported that due to the Jewish holidays the next board meeting will be on April 27th.

2. Quality of Life Committee

Frank stated that as was agreed to at the executive committee meeting, this committee would now be called the Neighborhood Conditions Committee. Frank stated that after this committee is approved by the board he would meet with any board members who are interested in serving on this committee to discuss the issues which they think should be addressed by this committee. Frank stated that he would then share this information and issues raised with the full board.

A Motion was made by Rhoda Gogatz, Seconded by Anthony DelGaudio - That a Neighborhood Conditions Ad Hoc Committee be formed.

A roll call vote was taken with 26 members present and voting in favor of the motion.

Those present and voting in favor were: Ruth Burko; Dominic Castore; John Cifichiello; Priscilla Crowell; Anthony DelGaudio; Patrick Dolan; Mauro Fanelli; Harain Figueroa; Rabbi Moshe Fuchs; Kenneth Gelnick; Rhoda Gogatz; Lewis Goldstein; Simeon Goldstein; Dexter Hendon; Gerald Launer; David Leavitt; Silvio Mazzella; Joseph Milone; Frank Muccioli; Seymour Ostroga; Pat Quaranta; Joseph Reda; Blanche Rifkin; Mark Shkreli; Patrick Torney and Linda White.

IV. District Manager's Report - Thomas Lucania

1. Street Activity Permit Application

a. Side Streets Productions, 1932 Blondell Avenue - Application is for a two day street festival on Blondell Avenue between Westchester and Ponton Avenue from 10 A.M. to 11:30 P.M. on Saturday, August 19th and from 8 A.M. to 11:30 P.M. on Sunday, August 20th (Rain dates Saturday, August 26th and Sunday, August 27th)

Thomas stated that the vote on this application has been postponed until the April board meeting due to concerns that the Westchester Square merchants had 2 years ago, concerning garbage and noise. He stated that he will be meeting with the sponsor of the event and Captain Romaine before the board meeting.

Thomas reported that the responses to the FY'96 Preliminary Budget Requests had been distributed along with the February District Cabinet Minutes.

Thomas reported that the addition of the name Ray Locascio Square at the intersection of East Gun Hill Road and Allerton Avenue will be coming before the City Council Parks and Recreation Committee on March 30th at 12:00 P.M. at City Hall.

Thomas reported that he had met with residents on Van Nest Avenue concerning their water pressure. He stated that the Department of Environmental Protection agreed to test the possibility of switching these homes to a higher pressure reservoir system.

Thomas reported that last month it was brought up about how long beer licenses are valid for. He stated that grocery stores are required to come to the board for their licenses as they are renewed for three years. Thomas stated that once we can get into the Alcohol Beverage Control computer the Economic Development Committee will send letter to grocery stores whose licenses are up for renewal and remind them that they need to send the community board notification.

Thomas reported that on the undercover, underage operation that took place on March 7th, the police visited 8 locations. Three passed and five received violations. Thomas stated that their names will appear in the Bronx Times Reporter.

Thomas reported that he received a response from the letter he sent to the TA regarding Ms. Brandt's concerns on the #5 train and the 180th street station of the Dyre Avenue line.

Thomas reported that the Health Department has been notified about the pest control conditions, and that sanitation went out and cleaned up the area, but that it was dirty again two days later. Thomas stated that the precinct will be looking into the dumping that is going on at Sackett Avenue.

V. Treasurer's Report - Thomas Lucania

Thomas reported that the Treasurer's Report had been distributed. He stated that it indicated the \$14,000 cut the board took as of January, 1995. Thomas stated that he would be preparing the FY'96 budget in the next few days, and that it would reflect the \$28,000 cut the board will be taking.

VI. Borough President's Report - Annette Marchitello

Annette submitted the following report to Harriet:

1. FERRER GETS ANSWERS, SEEKS ACCOUNTABILITY FROM POLICE ON EXCESSIVE FORCE POLICIES

Borough President Fernando Ferrer brought the highest ranking officers of the Police Department before the Borough Service Cabinet meeting to get some answers about the current police mechanisms and policies used to deter excessive force of officers while interfacing with Bronx residents.

"I am concerned about the use of excessive force by New York City Police officers," said Ferrer. "I am particularly concerned about the use of fatal force which results in death or serious bodily injury," explained Ferrer at the Cabinet meeting which took place pursuant to the authority vested on the Borough President by Chapter 69, Section 2706 of the New York City Charter. Ferrer, who convened the meeting as a direct result of the tragic death of Anthony Baez while in police custody, opened dialogue with NYPD Chief Patrol Louis Anemone and members of his administrative/academic staff.

Ferrer continued his line of questioning by requesting official documents from NYPD on the specific amount of time dedicated at the training level. Ferrer, specifically discussed the use of excessive force in the matter of Anthony Baez who died on December 22, 1994 while in the police custody of Officer Frank Livoti. "I am concerned about the increased use of deadly force not only the proper and improper discharge of firearms," said Ferrer when referring to the tragic incident.

Ferrer finalized the first of his dialogue with NYPD on this sensitive matter by stressing the need for "a concise and precise disclosure of the actual percentage allocated to the teaching and discussion of the use of force at the Academy and at the In-Service levels."

2. GOV. PATAKI'S MEDICAID CUTS WILL HURT THE CITY'S LONG TERM HEALTH CHARGE AN AD-HOC COALITION OF CONCERNED NEW YORKERS

Governor George Pataki's proposed cuts to Medicaid seriously jeopardize the city's long term health since the \$1.2 billion reductions focus more on extracting a fiscal benefit for the state budget than surgically streamlining health care costs.

The adoption of the Pataki-McCaughey Plan would amount to a

\$4.8 billion loss in federal and state Medicaid funding that would cripple New York City hospitals, drastically reduce service to homecare patients while simultaneously cut reimbursements for nursing homes, force more mentally ill onto the streets, trigger thousands of layoffs in virtually all health fields and ultimately cost the city millions more to treat patients with more serious health problems.

"Cuts to homecare will result in the frail elderly having to move to nursing homes or hospitals. Mandating managed care without having health care providers ready for the vast numbers of new families will result in chaos."

"This affects not only the poor," said Greater New York Hospital Association president Kenneth Raske, "but all patients because the money for the staff for all patients, not just Medicaid patients, comes from Medicaid reimbursements. When you figure in the matching Medicaid reimbursements from the federal government that will be lost, that money represents a significant number of medical staff."

Another unintended consequence of the Pataki proposal, say the leaders, is that while Managed Care may be the route to go, the weakened hospitals will be unable to provide adequate staffing to handle the overload.

"This budget document is not smart because it fails to take into account how much it takes out of our economy, out of our health care system and out of our city. It doesn't make a better system, it just weakens the patient, which in this case, is all the poor and elderly living in New York City."

3. TA EXPRESSES CONTINUED CLEAN-UP EFFORTS AND SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS

Transit Authority President Alan F. Keipper brought a detailed listing of accomplishments to the Bronx Borough Services Cabinet meeting, ranging from an increase in the number of station managers to station light upgrades and a reinvigorated maintenance schedule for its Bronx facilities.

Borough President Fernando Ferrer applauded the measures taken by the TA since their last meeting in November. "President Keipper, you articulate a very muscular response regarding the progress your agency has made; we have had significant improvements, that had to be noted, and is appreciated," said Ferrer.

The Walnut bus depot at Walnut Avenue and 132nd Street, had heavy litter on the sidewalk used by employee parking has been kept relatively clean by the TA's biweekly maintenance program. The other two bus depots, the Coliseum at Tremont Avenue off the Bronx River Parkway, and Gun Hill, located at Gun Hill Road off the New England Expressway, which had long suffered from an unresolved problem of dumping and weeds along perimeter fencing, are being maintained through innovative methods.

Gun Hill Depot, for instance, was transformed from a litter strewn lot to a neatly trimmed area with perimeter fencing, and a gravel border preventing the weeds from trapping any blown debris.

"It is our intention to continue to maintain those areas," said President Kiepper. As to the repeated cases of dump outs, Kiepper felt that a "broader effort of enforcement" was needed by the Sanitation Department.

Another issue raised by the monthly meeting was the poor bus service affecting Bronx Commuters. TA Service Manager said, "the bulk of the blame has to do with the manufacturer not being able to produce the parts necessary to make the repairs."

4. BRONX FIRM RETURNS FROM A NEAR DEATH EXPERIENCE

When Alter Street Window Corporation sought a Letter of Good Standing from the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance to complete a real estate acquisition, the Bronx Based distributor was shocked to learn that according to Department records, the company had been dissolved.

Alter had just successfully bid on property adjacent to its building at the Bathgate Industrial Park and made a cash payment to the Department of General Services. But there were tight deadlines on paperwork to follow, explains the President of the 28 year old firm, and the delay caused the Taxation and Finance snafu threatened to place Alter in default and unravel the deal.

Perez turned for help to Bronx Borough President Ferrer, who intervened to get a quick reversal of the dissolution error. "It's good to know there are politicians out there that really care," said a grateful Perez.

VIII. Committee Reports

A. Health and Social Services - Blanche Comras Rifkin

1. Vote on application by the People Live-In Center to operate an Individual Residential Alternative for 10 developmentally disabled adults at 1815 White Plains Road. The Public Hearing on this application was held on March 13th. Report attached.

Blanche reported that the vote will not be taken tonight, but rather at the April meeting, as we agreed to at the March public hearing.

Blanche reported that there will be an AIDS walk on May 21st.

Linda White reported that BMHC needs to enroll 63,000 people in its Managed Care Program.

B. Economic Development - Simeon Goldstein/Emil Eisdorfer

1. Alcohol Beverage Control License Renewals

a. Dave's Discount Wine & Liquor - 2444 Eastchester Road for off-premises consumption

b. Venice Restaurant - 2107 Williamsbridge Road for on-premises consumption

c. Grecian Garden Restaurant - 2200 White Plains Road for on-premises consumption

d. Lydig Avenue Grocery - 628 Lydig Avenue for off-premises beer and wine consumption

Simeon stated that he had spoken to Thomas and that the police had no problems with any of these locations.

A Motion was made by Simeon Goldstein, Seconded by Joe Milone - That Community Board #11 notify the Alcohol Beverage Control Bureau that it has no objections to the issuing of these license renewals.

Unanimously passed.

Dom asked for a list of violators every month.

C. Economic Development/Land Use

1. Report on joint meeting held on March 14th regarding the proposed construction of a shopping center at E. Gun Hill Road and Ely Avenue

Ken made a correction. He stated that in the report it said that he asked questions about the noise for the hvac systems and the number of trips that would be generated by using the common Waldbaums shopping center entrance. Ken stated that he had not asked these questions.

Thomas stated that the site is located next to Waldbaums. He stated that the ULURP application has not been filed yet. Thomas stated that when it is filed the board will hold a public hearing on this.

Rabbi Fuchs asked questions about the property on Eastchester Road.

Thomas said that the contractor has his permits to build a one story structure, and at this time he has signed one tenant, Rite Aide and possibly Block Buster and Boston Chicken. Thomas stated that there will be parking for approximately 40 cars in front and 20 underground.

D. Community Development and Budget Priorities - Thomas Lucania

Thomas reported that the Capital and Expense budget priorities were distributed. He stated that we will be submitting the board's comments on the FY'96 budget to OMB. Anyone with questions or comments can contact him before Monday.

E. Youth Services - Linda White

1. FY'96 Community Share program applications

Linda reported that the FY'96 Community Share applications have been received by the Youth Services Committee. She stated that they have to be at the Department of Youth Services by April 12th. She stated that there is not enough time to come before the board, so the Committee will make the recommendations.

Linda reported that the board office has been receiving calls on the Summer Youth Applications from all over the city as it was listed in the papers and on the radio that we have applications.

Linda read a letter from Rich on his taking the severance.

Rhoda Gogatz praised Rich for the wonderful work he has done. She asked about giving him a plaque. Frank stated that this would have to come before the Executive Committee.

F. Housing - Leslie McHenry

1. Report on committee meeting held on March 20th

Leslie spoke about the members of the committee who do not show up for committee meetings.

Leslie spoke about holding a housing seminar in June to coincide with Bronx Week. She stated that a subcommittee meeting to work on this will take place on March 31st at NIDC.

G. Highways, Traffic and Transportation - Rabbi Moshe Fuchs

Rabbi Fuchs reported that he had received a letter from Lenard Garret concerning the construction at the Pelham Parkway station. He stated that the contractor has to meet 7 conditions in order for them to use the Pelham Parkway South Service Road as a storage area.

Rabbi Fuchs reported that he had also receive a letter from Deputy Borough Commissioner Bier of the Department of Transportation on the scheduled resurfacing of streets in our district. He stated that this will take place from June 19th-June 26th. He stated that the following streets will have milling and overlay:

Pelham Parkway North from Fish to Laconia Avenues; Young Avenue from Allerton to Mace Avenues; Fish Avenue from Astor to Allerton Avenues; Mickle Avenue from Pelham Parkway North to Astor Avenue; Westervelt Avenue from Pelham Parkway North to Mace Avenue; Woodhull Avenue from Pelham Parkway North to Astor Avenue and Waring Avenue from Eastchester Road to Westervelt Avenue.

Rabbi Fuchs reported that he had received a letter from Deputy Chief Borough Engineer of Traffic about height signs and curve warning sign at Bronxdale Avenue, Poplar Street and Van Nest Avenue. He stated that orders were issued to install these signs.

Rabbi Fuchs spoke about seeing new cars on the #5 and #2 lines in our area.

H. Parks and Playgrounds - John Cifichiello

John reported that Zimmerman Park was a #2 budget priority for the board. He stated that Parks projects were also a #4, #5, #6, #8, #9 and #10 priority.

John reported that he had attended a meeting at the Botanical Garden. He spoke about the parking that goes on in the oval on Kazimiroff Boulevard on Sundays.

I. Public Safety - Joseph Reda

Joe read the following crime statistics for February:

	<u>1994</u>	<u>1995</u>	<u>% change</u>
Robbery	48	39	18.6 Down
Burglary	86	70	18.6 Down
G.L.A.	113	124	9.7 Up
Murder	3	0	
Rape	2	1	

	<u>Year-To-Date</u>		
Robbery	130	94	27.7 Down
Burglary	187	141	24.6 Down
G.L.A.	266	255	4.1 Down
Murder	3	0	
Rape	5	2	

	<u>Arrests</u>	
Robbery	16	20
Burglary	5	5
G.L.A.	9	9
Murder	N/A	0
Rape	N/A	2

Total Felonies	252	307	21.8 Up
Total Complaints	1130	966	14.5 Down

VIII. Old Business

Rhoda spoke about the attendance records of the board members. She stated that a committee needs to review them.

Thomas explained that the new appointments will be made as of April 1st, and that after then the committee would look into it.

Joe Milone spoke about the service road at Pelham Parkway South and Williamsbridge Road. He stated that someone has started to clean it. Thomas explained that it is part of the Parks Department WEP Program.

Bill Ricevuto spoke about the meter maids giving tickets. He also spoke about officers from the 49th Precinct on the midnight to 8 A.M. shift giving out summonses without getting out of their cars on residential blocks.

There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 9:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Lewis Goldstein (L)

Lewis Goldstein,
Secretary

ATTENDANCE AT MEETING OF MARCH 23, 1995

PRESENT

Ruth Burko	(3)(4)	David Leavitt	(3)(4)
Dominic Castore	(6)(4)	Gerald Launer	(0)(0)
John Cifichiello	(0)(1)	Silvio Mazzella	(0)(0)
Priscilla Crowell	(2)(3)	Leslie McHenry	(1)(2)
Anthony DelGaudio	(3)(4)	Joseph Milone	(7)(2)
Patrick Dolan	(4)(4)	Frank Muccioli	(0)(0)
Mauro Fanelli	(4)(1)	Seymour Ostroga	(0)(4)
Marain Figueroa	(2)(1)	Patrick Quaranta	(4)(6)
Laura Fischman	(2)(1)	Joseph Reda	(6)(2)
Rabbi Moshe Fuchs	(5)(2)	William Ricevuto	(5)(2)
Kenneth Gelnick	(3)(4)	Blanche Comras Rifkin	(3)(5)
Rhoda Gogatz	(0)(5)	Mark Shkreli	(3)(0)
Lewis Goldstein	(3)(2)	Patrick Torney	(4)(0)
Simeon Goldstein	(0)(1)	Linda White	(4)(4)
Dexter Hendon	(2)(1)	Lisa Winters	(4)(5)

ABSENT

Dr. Mary Acker	(10)(8)	Robert Potter	(5)(4)
Lorraine Cortes-Vasquez	(7)(1)	Mary Rogan	(5)(0)
Emil Eisdorfer	(6)(3)	Scott Roveto	(9)(6)
James Gisondi	(6)(1)	Madeline Saltaformaggio	(1)(0)
Ralph Lanzilli	(7)(4)	Robert Torres	(8)(6)
Alfred Locascio	(7)(4)	Mordechai Twersky	(3)(0)
Lori Motta	(4)(2)	Andrew Udin	(8)(0)

EX OFFICIO BOARD MEMBERS

Helen Korman - Representing Councilman Michael DeMarco

OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS

Daniel Cestaro - Representing Senator Joseph Galiber and Assemblyman Jeffrey Klein

STAFF, BOROUGH PRESIDENT, AND AGENCY OFFICIALS

Thomas Lucania, District Manager
Harriet Lasky, Secretary
Annette Marchitello, Borough President Fernando Ferrer's Office

GUESTS

Thal Davis
Steven Schwartz

*Numbers in parenthesis denotes absences from September 1994 including ALL public hearings.
Numbers in **BOLD** denotes absences from September 1993-June 1994