



COMMUNITY BOARD #11, BRONX
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Dominic Castore
Chairman

Fernando Ferrer
Borough President

John A. Fratta
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

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1999 IN THE PATIENT ACTIVITY CENTER OF CALVERY HOSPITAL

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 P.M. by Dominic Castore, Chairman.

I. Presentation by Kathy Cucinell of FECS

Ms. Cucinell stated that the proposed residence at 2181 Muliner Avenue would house 8 mentally retarded/developmentally disabled young men. She stated that the houses is located between Pelham Parkway South and Lydig Avenue. Ms. Cucinell stated that there would be 24-hour supervision and 2 staff members at all times. She also stated that there is coordination with Bronx Visiting Nurses for twice a week. Residents go to day programs, which are located on the Grand Concourse.

II. Committee Reports

A. Health and Social Services – Hazel Miura

Hazel read the report from the Committee. (Report attached)

A Motion was made by Hazel Miura, Seconded by Dorrie Castro – That Community Board #11 accept this proposal with the following conditions:

1. F.E.G.S assist these 3 families in finding decent, affordable housing no matter how long it takes.
2. That the renovations needed are made with the lease Inconvenience to their new neighbors.
3. That the traffic problem already existing be taken into Consideration and not be added to by the agency or their staff by utilizing the homes parking space to the maximum capacity and have residents picked up and dropped off at a specific times of the day.
4. That they do a through inquiry of the property in questions

taking into consideration the outcome form any current tenant.

5. That this be the last group home this agency proposes to place in our community.

6. That the next time they intend to purchase a home in any other community

7. for the purpose of operating a group home, that they notify every elected Officials representing that community and follow up with them.

Dom Castore stated that he has been on Community Board #11 for over 20 Years. He stated that his vote would be based on the will of the people. If the community does not want this home in their area then I am against it.

Marilyne Jamieson stated that she represents the community, and as the community is against this location she is against it. She stated that she is against it because the area is saturated with medical facilities. Marilyn stated that FECS not knowing about the Section 8 tenants shows that they don't care. Marilyne also stated that for FECS to pay \$500,000 for this house in an area where houses do not sell for anywhere near that amount does not say much for them.

Silvio Mazzella acknowledged Assemblyman Jeffrey Klein for being at the public hearing. Silvio also stated that Hazel did a good job of chairing the public hearing. He stated that there should be a message sent to FECS that they should do their job when looking to buy a house. Silvio stated that he was upset that the Committee did not meet after the public hearing.

Rev. McHenry stated that she had mixed emotions. She stated that FECS is proposing to evict 11 people to house 8.

John Fratta reported that the Board had received a copy of the letter that Assemblyman Klein sent to Commissioner Thomas Maul strongly objecting to the process and the waste of tax payer dollars. He stated that 11 people are going to be homeless. These people are on Section 8. John stated that he felt that the Board should vote against this proposed home.

A toll call vote was taken.

Those voting in favor of the Motion were: Blanche Comras Rifkin and Hazel Miura.

Seymour Ostroga abstained.

Those voting against the Motion were: Dominic Castore, Dorinda Castro, John Cifichiello, Priscilla Crowell, Patrick Dolan, Harain Figueroa, Marilyne Jamieson, Annette Marchitello, Silvio Mazzella, Rev. Leslie McHenry, Joseph Milone, Robert Potter, Vincent

Prezioso, Pat Quaranta, Keith Ramsey, Martin Sacewicz, Madeline Saltaformaggio, Elaine Weisbrot, Linda White.

The vote was 2 in favor, 19 against and 1 abstention. The Motion was defeated.

III. Yankee Scholarship Awards

John reported that a few years ago the Yankees gave out 5 \$500 checks to deserving youth in our community. He stated that tonight 4 of the five youth that have won this year's awards are here. John then introduced Yolanda Garcia of the New York Yankee Community Council. He then read the names of the winners. They are: Christine Castorina, Robert Milano, Matthew Masdeu, Christine Hernandez and Florence Goldstein

Ms. Garcia gave John Fratta the check for Christine Hernandez who was not able to attend this evening.

IV. Gallery Session

a. Irwin Weinberg

Mr. Weinberg spoke about the accident that occurred by a speeding car on Astor Avenue. He stated that if drivers would keep their headlights on while using their windshield wipers it would prevent accidents. He also stated that the police should summons cars parked by stop signs.

V. Minutes

Correction – John Cifichiello reported that there were 2 corrections on page 9. The first was that the cost of the Mazzai Playground project was \$260,000 not \$2,600,000. The other correction was that John told everyone to use sand not salt on their sidewalks.

A Motion was made by Blanche Rifkin, Seconded by Bob Potter – That the Minutes be accepted as corrected.

Unanimously approved.

VI. Chairman's Report – Dominic Castore

Dom wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

VII. District Manager's Report – John A. Fratta

John reported that a major accident had occurred on Morris Park Avenue. He stated that he convened a meeting on Friday at 1:00 P.M. with Transportation, the Morris Park Community Association, DOT Signals, Police, EMS, our elected officials and the Public Safety Committee. John reported that a suggestion was made to stagger the lights. He stated that the drawback to this is that it would back up traffic.

Martin Sacewitz asked about blinders on the traffic lights, Vinnie asked about left turn on red signs. John reported that the Morris Park Community Association had requested left hand turn signals at some intersections. He stated that double parking is causing a lot of problems. John stated that if there were a zero tolerance of double parking Morris Park would not be in this condition.

Linda White reported that she was on Morris Park Avenue at the same time that the accident occurred. She stated that the timing of the lights during the day is different than at night. She asked John to check the timing.

Annette Marchitello reported that there was an accident at Barnes and Rhinelander last year where a car was broadsided.

John stated that he would ask DOT to look at all the area. He also reported that two of the accidents involved EMS ambulances.

Annette reported that EMS uses Rhinelander Avenue around Seminole Avenue into the hospital. She stated that the speed bump have stopped some use.

Pat Quaranta reported that Rhinelander and Lydig Avenues are ambulance runs. He stated that there have been more accidents since the lights were installed, and due to the double parking.

Martin Sacewicz reported on accidents at Mace and Hering Avenues. He stated that cars going west up the hill can't see cars coming.

Dom Castore said he was looking for solutions not more problems.

Seymour Ostroga stated that the clocks on the lights could be done in a butterfly.

John Fratta told John Cummings the reason we needed lights was because people could not cross the street,

Madeline Saltaformaggio asked about head in parking.

Ken Gelnick asked about the possibility of cutting down the sidewalks.

VIII. Treasurer's Report – Silvio Mazzella

Silvio reported that the Treasurer's Report had been distributed. He thanked Harriet for the job she has done.

IX. Borough President's Report – Linda Loeb

Linda stated that since the report was long she was going to submit it to Harriet.

1. FERRER: GIULIAN'S HOMELESS PLAN "COSMETIC BAND-AID"
2. FERRER TO CITY HALL & ALBANY: GIVE TAXPAYERS A GIFT THEY DESERVE
3. BOROUGH PRESIDENT FERRER SUPPORTS FIVE POINT MASS TRANSIT PLAN
4. FERRER CALLS ON NYC SCHOOLS TO DECLARE WAR ON VERMIN
5. PUERTO RICAN OFFICIALS TELL CLINTON TO HALT VIEQUES BOMBING
6. FERRER TELLS COUNCIL & CITY HALL: JUST DO IT! GIVE TRANSIT RIDERS THEIR TRANSIT CHECK
7. BOROUGH PRESIDENT FERNANDO FERRER RELEASES THIS STATEMENT AT A QUEENS PUBLIC FORUM ON HATE CRIMES
8. FERRER WEBSITE POLLS NY ON CITY SERVICES
9. CHECK LIST FOR Y2K

Linda wished everyone a happy New Year from Borough President Fernando Ferrer.

X. Committee Reports

A. Health and Social Services – Blanche Comras Rifkin

Blanche stated that she and Hazel wanted to thank everyone who came to the public hearing. Blanche reported that the hospitals are preparing for Y2K. They are working to 5 A.M.

B. Parks and Playgrounds – John Cifichiello

John reported that the Parks Department is considering closing Loretto Playground earlier as there is no activity going on there at night. John stated that hockey is played during the daytime. John reported that the pick up of leaves is over.

C. Public Safety – Silvio Mazzella

Silvio reported the crime stats for November as follows: Robbery down 39% for November, 69% for the year; Burglary up 7% for November, down 2.9% for the year; GLA down 8% for November up 1% for the year; Murder 0; Rape 0.

Silvio stated that he felt that the 49th Precinct should be called so that there is police presence at the Board meetings.

D. Youth – Linda White

Linda reported that the next Youth meeting would be on January 24th.

E. Economic Development – John Fratta

a. Alcohol Beverage Control License

1. Stillwell Café Inc. – 1980 Stillwell Avenue for on-premises consumption (NEW)

John gave the background and history of this location. He stated that the owner wants to open a restaurant at this location. John stated that Dom Castore; Joe Thompson and he would be meeting with the owner tomorrow to discuss his plans.

A Motion was made by Rev. Leslie McHenry, Seconded by Silvio Mazzella – That Community Board #11 send a letter to the State Liquor Authority stating that we have no objections to the issuing of this liquor license.

Passed

Vinnie reported that Assemblyman Jeff Klein's office called to invite the Board to the Tree lighting which will take place on Esplanade and Pelham Parkway on ____ at 4:00 P.M. He stated that the Assemblyman is inviting all children.

XI. New Business

John congratulated Rev. McHenry on graduating from the Police Academy.

John wished Dom Castore a Happy Birthday.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Ruth Burko,
Secretary

ATTENDANCE AT BOARD MEETING DECEMBER 16, 1999

PRESENT

Dominic Castore
Dorrie Castro
John Cifichiello
Priscilla Crowell
Patrick Dolan
Harain Figueroa
Kenneth Gelnick
Marilyne Jamieson
David Leavitt
Annette Marchitello
Silvio Mazzella
Rev. Leslie McHenry

Joseph Milone
Hazel Miura
Seymour Ostroga
Robert Potter
Vincent Prezioso
Pat Quaranta
Keith Ramsey
Blanche Comras Rifkin
Martin Sacewitz
Madeline Saltaformaggio
Elaine Weisbrot

ABSENT

Kwasi Afrifa
Randal Allen
James Cenera
Anthony DelGaudio

James Gisondi
Dexter Hendon
Gerald Launer

EXCUSED

Ruth Burko
Joseph Carozza
Dominick DeProspo

Dr. Mahendra Patel
Joseph Reda

EX OFFICIO BOARD MEMBERS

Marilyn Klein – Representing Councilwoman Madeline Provenzano

STAFF, BOROUGH PRESIDENT AND AGENCY OFFICIALS

John Fratta, District Manager
Harriet Lasky, Secretary
Margaret Guglielmo, Office Aide
Linda Loeb – Borough President's Office

GUEST

Helene Sanberg – Van Nest Library
John Pucci – Morris Park Community Association
Kathy Cucinell – F.E.G.S.
Alan Lord – Bronx Times Reporter
Yolanda Garcia – New York Yankee Community Council