

COMMUNITY BOARD #11, BRONX
1741 COLDEN AVENUE
BRONX, NEW YORK 10462
(718) 892-6262 FAX (718) 892-1861
E-Mail: CommBd11BX @AOL.COM



Dominic Castore
Chairman

Adolfo Carrion,
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, MAY 22, 2003
IN THE PATIENT ACTIVITY CENTER OF CALVARY HOSPITAL

The meeting was called to order at 7:20 PM by Dominic Castore, Chairman.

I. Gallery Session

a. Marisa Parish – NY Public Library

Ms. Parish stated that she was here this evening to thank everyone for their support to help stop the cuts the library faces. Ms. Parish introduced Ms. Giselle James the new librarian in this region who will be at the Allerton Branch.

b. Anthony Bastone – Frankie & Johnie’s Pine Restaurant – 1913 Bronxdale Avenue

Mr. Bastone gave out copies of his testimony in which he spoke about the parking problems in and around the restaurant. He reported that he has hired a valet service to assist in parking the patron’s vehicles. Mr. Bastone also reported that he has leased a piece of property from the city for the patrons to park in.

Dom asked for a meeting with Mr. Bastone, the police, John Fratta and himself.

Kathy Rodriguez stated that Borough President Adolfo Carrion’s representative stated that he is working on the situation.

c. Joshua Bloomfield – Project Liberty Peer Support Initiative

Mr. Bloomfield stated that what makes this project so special is that they are the only Project Liberty in the state of New York that is consumer run. He stated that they target the mentally ill consumers. Mr. Bloomfield explained that they were trained by FEMA and funded by FEMA under the umbrella of Community Access 666 Broadway. He asked that the information be put in the Board window.

d. John Cummings

Mr. Cummings spoke about the need for stop signs on Seminole Avenue where it intersects Narragansett Avenue. He stated that it is a very bad corner. Mr. Cummings stated that even with petitions they were turned down for a stop sign and speed bumps. He stated that this has been going on for 13 years. Dom Castore said that the Board would push for this.

e. John Gillinson – Jewish Community Council

Mr. Gillison stated that he was also from Project Liberty. He stated that they provide assistance to older adults in the Bronx. Mr. Gillison stated that they offer 1 to 1 counseling and community education. He stated that they are still hearing from people who have not sought assistance either because they did not they were eligible or were reluctant to do so.

II. Minutes

Correction – Vinny stated that on the Nominations it was stated that Joe Thompson nominated him for First Vice Chair, but it was Joe McManus who made the Nomination.

A Motion was made by Vincent Prezioso, Seconded by Debra Jaffee – That the Minutes be accepted as corrected. PASSED.

III. Chairman's Report – Dominic Castore

Dom welcomed the four new Board members: Junior Campbell; Joseph Carfora; Mary Paliotta and Sandra Unger and asked them to say a little about themselves which they did.

Dom spoke about the Committee Request Forms that were given to the new Board members.

Dom reported that today he attended a Borough Board meeting with John. He stated that they discussed restoration of budget cuts to services and programs. Dom stated that one of the proposed cuts was the cutting back of Sanitation from twice a week pick ups to once a week. He spoke about the fact that in Community Board #8 they were only cutting back in certain places, such as by private houses and not by apartment buildings. Dom stated that he wanted to know why they are not doing this in Community Board #11. He stated that we are fighting this.

IV. District Manager – John A. Fratta

John welcomed the new members. He spoke about the serious cuts to services and agencies. He stated that libraries could be cut to 4.7 days a week, Sanitation cuts will cause more dumping in our community. Youth programs will be cut, Summer Youth Employment Program will be for 3,500. John stated that the police, fire and all agencies were being hit with budget cuts. John stated that we need to look at how we fare as a Community Board with other community boards. We also need to see how the Bronx fares in relation to the outer boroughs or Manhattan.

John reported that one suggestion that came up at the meeting this morning was that the Borough President should look into a lawsuit against the city/Mayor. John reported that he was at Gracie Mansion a few days ago where they saluted community boards. He stated that the Mayor did commit that there were not going to be any cuts to community boards. John reported that the Mayor feels that community boards are vital to New York City.

John reported that he testified at a hearing against the closing of Bronx State and Bronx Children's Psychiatric Hospital. He said that this would hurt the most needy of our people.

STREET ACTIVITY APPLICATIONS

1. Application from Liam Moffatt of the Lurting, Poplar, Roselle Block Association to close Lurting Avenue between East Tremont Avenue and Williamsbridge Road on August 23rd with a rain date of August 24th from 11 AM to 8 PM for a Block Party.
2. Application from Lawrence Prospect of the White Plains Road BID to have a sidewalk sale on White Plains Road between Pelham Parkway South and Brady Avenue on July 10th-12th with a rain date of July 17th – 19th from 10 AM to 7 PM.
3. Application from Joseph Reda of the Tenbroeck Avenue Block Association to close Tenbroeck Avenue from Rhinelander to Neill Avenues on August 2nd with a rain date of August 8th from 11 AM to 9 PM for a Block Party.
4. Application from Cindy Mazzella of the Allerton Business & Community Association for a Halloween Parade and Carnival on Bronxwood Avenue between Allerton Avenue and Boston Road on October 25th from 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM.
5. Application from James Hart of the Residents of the 2400 Block of Hering Avenue to close Hering Avenue between Mace and Waring Avenues on August 16th from 9 AM to 8 PM for a Block Party.

A Motion was made by Linda White, Seconded by Elaine Weisbrot –That Community Board #11 approve of these Street Activity Applications. **PASSED.**

John reported that the Board received 2 unsigned letters supposedly from homeowners on Tenbroeck Avenue (where a block party is run by Tie Allen every year). He stated that they were objecting to the block party that we already approved and don't want it on their block. John stated that the Board has a policy that we do not respond to unsigned letters.

V. Treasurer's Report – Silvio Mazzella

Silvio reported that the Community Board and the Friends of Community Board #11 Treasurer's reports had been distributed. If there are any questions see Harriet or myself.

Silvio reported that the tentative date for the Borough Consultations is September 25th at Fordham Prep.

VI. Borough President's Report – Kathy Rodriguez

Kathy welcomed all the new members on behalf of Borough President Adolfo Carrion Jr. She stated that we look forward to working with you.

Kathy read the following reports:

1. Under the Mayor's Executive Budget 60 Bronx Senior Programs will lose funding in July.
2. Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrion chaired a recent ruling by the NYS Court of Appeals on the Campaign for Fiscal Equity case as an important step toward giving NYC school children their fair share of State education funds.
3. The Borough President and members of Picture the Homeless held a press conference at the EAU to protest Mayor Bloomberg's plans to house the homeless from EAU who cannot be moved to other facilities in the Bronx House of Detention.
4. Borough President Adolfo Carrion joined Bronx Net and the City University of NY to invite Bronxites to participate in the 5K Run Race and Health and Awareness Festival on Saturday, May 24th from 10 AM – 2 PM at Van Cortlandt Park.
5. Borough President Adolfo Carrion proclaimed the week of Monday June 16th to Saturday June 22nd as Bronx Week.

VII. Committee Reports

A. Health and Social Services – Blanche Comras Rifkin

1. 2104 Eastchester Road

Blanche reported that the Minutes of the Health meeting had been distributed. She welcomed Dr. Patel back after being ill. Blanche also welcomed the people from the Individual Residential Alternative for coming tonight. She reported that they had a very successful meeting on the proposed IRA for 2104 Eastchester Road, which is right across the street from the 49th Precinct. Blanche reported that at the Committee meeting the people from the IRA were present and were very informative.

A Motion was made by Blanche Rifkin, Seconded by Silvio Mazzella – That Community Board #11 approve of this IRA with the proviso that it not exceed 6 people, and that there be staff on duty 7 days a week 24 hours a day. **PASSED.**

Blanche reported that she had passed out flyers on the proposed closing of Bronx State. Blanche also reported that the Borough President is having a Health and Fitness Day on Friday June 29th in the Rotunda at 161st Street from 11 AM to 2 PM. Blanche reported that there will be a hearing on June 9th at 6 PM at Jacobi Medical Center in the auditorium concerning a 50 year lease agreement with a 50 year option with the A.E.C.O.M. for the Van Etten building.

B. Highways, Traffic and Transportation – Rabbi Moshe Fuchs/Vincent Prezioso

Vinny reported that at the last meeting Highways made a motion to change the flow of traffic on Gunther Avenue one way south bound from Astor to Stillwell Avenues. He stated that the motion was withdrawn because there was opposition to it. Vinny reported that subsequent to the Board meeting with the Beechwood homeowners and the residents of Wickham Avenue. He stated that they looked at the scenarios and agreed that the best solution to the problem was that it be changed.

A Motion was made by Vincent Prezioso, Seconded by Elaine Weisbrot – That Community Board #11 send a letter to DOT requesting that Gunther Avenue from Astor to Stillwell Avenues be made one way going south. **PASSED.**

Vinny reported that the Board received petitions from Chester Civic, and they have been put in the record. He also stated that DOT has a letter from Chester Civic requesting this change.

Eugene Tutora thanked the Board for their help in alleviating this traffic problem.

Rabbi Fuchs spoke about the Bronx Zoo parking. He stated that it backs up on the Bronx River Parkway going to New Rochelle, and on the other side to West Farms Road. Rabbi Fuchs stated that the parking lot on Southern Boulevard is half full, whereas this one has cars parked on the grass. He reported that reason for this is that where the people pay for parking there is only one booth and they are very slow. Rabbi Fuchs asked about the possibility of moving the booth 500 feet more into the lot or having more booths.

Rabbi Fuchs spoke about the parking meters that are in effect on Sundays. He stated that some merchants want it and some don't. He stated that the residents are totally against it.

John reported that the Board held a public hearing on this, and that only 1 person showed up and he was in support of the meters.

Rabbi Fuchs said that he would like to find out how the community feels now that the meters are in effect.

John reported that we were not given an option on whether we wanted Sunday meters. We received a letter stating that DOT was doing this. John also reported that at last month's meeting the Highway's Committee reported that they decided not to take a position, and see if there was any outrage from the community. He stated that he has not received 1 call against the meters.

Vinny reported that they had a meeting with the elected officials, the 49th Precinct, Zoo architects, and Parks on Bronx Zoo grounds. He stated that they looked at the situation and there were suggestions made. Vinny reported that it was given to some consultants who were supposed to get back to us. He also reported that the Zoo was trying to clear the problem up before the summer time.

C. Parks and Recreation – Joseph Thompson

Joe reported that his Committee is working on a Teen Concert, Skate Board Park and Dog Run. He also reported that Debbie is working with Assemblyman Jeff Klein on the Teen Concert. Diane is working on the Dog Run and Lilly is working on the Skate Board Park. Joe reported that they are in the process of setting up a meeting with Assemblyman Klein, Senator Thompson, Commissioner Lewandowski, the Allerton Businessmen's Association and the McDonald's people. Joe reported that at this meeting they will present Lilly's draft of the Skate Board Park. He also reported that that Committee went out on a field trip and took pictures of the dog runs and existing Bronx Skate Board Park. Joe reported that the Committee has done a tremendous job. Joe reported that while you may never see the Community Board's name on these projects, but he wanted everyone to know that the Board was involved with these projects.

Joe reported that they Committee met with Councilwoman Provenzano, Commissioner Lewandowski and Skating Rink Champion Tony Hawks. He stated that Commissioner Lewandowski brought the engineer here and they studied the park. He stated that they would get back to us as soon as a final decision is made. Joe reported that Councilwoman Provenzano is putting \$950,000 into the Park, and she has to make the final decision.

D. Economic Development – Joseph Thompson

1. Alcohol Beverage Control Licenses

- a. 1756 Bronxdale Avenue – Van Nest Lanes for on-premises consumption (RENEWAL)
- b. Mama Maria Corp. – 900 Morris Park Avenue for on-premises consumption (RENEWAL)

A Motion was made by Joseph Thompson, Seconded by Debra Jaffee – That Community Board #11 notify the ABC that we have no objections to the granting of these renewal licenses. **PASSED.**

Joe reported that there is no legislation that businesses that sell liquor for off-premises consumption come to the Board for approval. He stated that it is some of these stores that sell to minors. Joe reported that Senator Guy Velella has introduced a bill that would make it mandatory that these places notify us before applying for a requesting a renewal.

Silvio asked that letter be sent to all the community boards notifying them of this legislation and have them contact their legislators to set a unified bill in place.

Eugene Tutora raised an issue of a grocery store on Eastchester Road across from Holy Rosary school selling to minors.

Dom DeProspero spoke about a new law that they want to pass that would allow liquor stores to be open on Sunday, and they then must be closed 1 day during the week. He stated that they would not close one day during the week.

E. Youth – Linda White

1. New York Yankee Scholarship Awards

Linda reported that John and she are working on setting up regulations for the Yankee Scholarship Awards and hope to have them ready by the June meeting.

2. YDDP funds

Linda reported that the total allocation for the city is \$15.25 million. She stated that Community Board #11's portion is \$201,239. Linda reported that 700 proposals have been picked up. She also reported that under the new ruling, the most that can be spent per child is \$200, even if it is a year round program. Linda reported that results will be out after Labor Day and the contract should start on January 1, 2004.

3. DYCD

Linda reported that the Mayor decided to merge a lot of groups within departments. She stated that there is no longer a Department of Employment, it is now part of DYCD. ACS (children's services) is being annexed as well as the Department of Education. Anything having to do with Youth is now going to go through DYCD. She stated that funding is now spread thinner. SYEP no longer exists. Linda reported that there will be 1400 youths in New York City. She reported that there are 3500 jobs for the entire city. Pathways for Youth and Simpson Street Development are the only ones running this program in our area. Pathways for Youth has 168 slots, and we were told we might be given 25 slots for each board.

Linda reported that next meeting is scheduled for June 9th.

4. Summer Bus Program

We are still working on it.

F. Public Safety – Silvio Mazzella

Silvio reported that on May 3rd a Task Force consisting of the 49th Precinct, Special Ops, SLA, the Health Department and the Fire Department. He reported that inspections were made at Gleason's Café at 2040 Eastchester Road. No violations were issued and they have a current liquor and cabaret license.

Silvio reported that the Emergency Room Bar & Grill on Wilkinson Avenue received 4 Health summonses.

Silvio reported that the Atlantic Café on Wallace Avenue and Boston Road was also turned down by the Community Board for license. He stated that at the time of our visit at 11:45 PM they were closed, but 1 Health Violation was issued.

Silvio reported that National Night Out would be held on August 5th from 5-10 PM at Pelham Parkway North grassy mall between Wallace and Barnes Avenues. All groups are invited to participate. Call Joe Thompson.

John reported that due to the "No Smoking Law" we are getting a lot of Quality of Life problems because people at bars are going outside to smoke and taking their drinks with them.

Lillie spoke about the fact that all 3 Housing developments are sharing 1 police officer. She asked for a letter of support to be sent to the Commissioner asking that they get more officers.

E. Education and Culture – Ruth Burko/Robert Potter

Ruth reported that the Committee met on May 15th. She stated that the Minutes will be given out at the next meeting.

Ruth reported that the School Construction Authority has started reconstruction and rehabilitation of the bathrooms in the schools in our district. She also reported that the Board of Education wants to increase parent involvement. She stated they are going to hire a parent coordinator for every school by September.

Ruth reported that Community Board #5 in Manhattan advised us of their action with reference to the proposed budget cuts to higher education. She reported that the Committee discussed and would like to make the following resolution, which was seconded by Joe Bacote:

RESOLVED that Community Board #11 send a letter to Governor Pataki, Senator Bruno and Speaker Silver to strongly stress that the proposed higher education cuts and tuition increase be rejected; And that the state develop a long term policy regarding public university tuition levels and education assistance programs so that they will not be vulnerable to yearly budgetary pressure; And that the state consider other sources for funding of higher education. **PASSED.**

Ruth reported that School District #11 is planning a dinner dance on June 4th at the Glen Island Casino to celebrate 30 years of Academic Excellence.

Bob Potter reported that MS 135 is having a Health Fair on May 31st from 10 AM – 1 PM.

Bob reported that there are still no defibrillators in the schools because no one has been trained to use them.

A Motion was made by Bob Potter, Seconded by Joe Thompson – That Community Board #11 send a letter to the Mayor requesting that people be trained to use the defibrillators at the schools. **PASSED.**

Joe reported that Senator Velella's office (the northwest Bronx Coalition) has offered schools defibrillators and training. He stated that several schools have accepted.

F. Sanitation and Environmental Protection – Debra Jaffee

A Motion was made by Debra Jaffee, Seconded by Diane Cerino – That Community Board #11 send an extremely aggressive letter to the Mayor that we are totally against any sanitation cuts to our borough as other boroughs have 3 pick ups and they want to cut us to one. **PASSED.**

G. Nominations Committee – Robert Potter

Bob reported that at the last meeting the Committee presented the following slate: Dominic Castore, Chairman; Rev. Leslie McHenry, First Vice Chair; Vincent Prezioso, Second Vice Chair; Silvio Mazzella, Treasurer; and Ruth Burko, Secretary. He stated that when nominations were taken from the floor there were none for Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. There was a Motion to nominate Vincent Prezioso for First Vice Chair. Vinny accepted the nomination and declined the nomination for Second Vice Chair. Joe Thompson was nominated for Second Vice Chair and he accepted.

Bob asked for nominations for Chairman, there were none.

A Motion was made by Bob Potter, Seconded by Silvio Mazzella – That nominations for Chairman be closed. **PASSED.**

Bob asked for nominations for First Vice Chair, there were none.

A Motion was made by Lilithe Lozano, Seconded by Debra Jaffee – That nominations for First Vice Chair be closed. **PASSED.**

Bob asked for nominations for Second Vice Chair, there were none.

A Motion was made by Bob Potter, Seconded by John Dennehy – That nominations for Second Vice Chair be closed. **PASSED.**

Bob asked for nominations for Treasurer, there were none.

A Motion was made by Bob Potter, Seconded by Blanche Rifkin – That nominations be closed for Treasurer. **PASSED.**

Bob asked for nominations for Secretary, there were none.

A Motion was made by Bob Potter, Seconded by Elaine Weisbrot – That nominations for Secretary be closed. **PASSED.**

Bob reported that at the next Board meeting the Board members will vote for the First Vice Chair, and the Secretary would, cast one vote in affirmation for the rest of the slate.

John reported that even though we have paper ballots the votes must be listed in the Minutes.

VIII. New Business

Bob reported that at the Executive Committee meeting a resolution was passed to enable Board members to have identification, and it was not brought up tonight.


John reported that he was not at that meeting, and was not informed of this. He said he would look into it.

Dom DeProspero reported that on Monday at 10:30 AM at Williamsbridge Road and Pelham Parkway North services will be held for our war veterans and those killed on 911. All are invited to attend.

Debra asked about the cameras put in to catch speeders. She asked if the Board was informed when they are put in. John told her that no one is notified. He stated that some are fake, but we do not know which ones are real or fake.

A Motion was made by Joe McManus, Seconded by Debra Jaffee – That the meeting be adjourned. **PASSED.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted, 
Ruth Burko,
Secretary

ATTENDANCE AT BOARD MEETING OF MAY 22, 2003

PRESENT

Joseph Bacote	(1)	Evelyn Martinez	(0)
Ruth Burko	(1)	Silvio Mazzella	(0)
Julia Campbell	(0)	Joseph McManus	(0)(1)
Joseph Carfora	(0)	Diane Norris	(0)
Dominic Castore	(1)(3)	Mary Paliotta	(0)
Priscilla Crowell	(2)(1)	Dr. Mahendra Patel	(0)(1)
John Dennehy	(3)(1)	Robert Potter	(0)
Dominick DeProspero	(3)(1)	Vincent Prezioso	(0)
Pat Dolan	(1)	Pat Quaranta	(1)(4)
Harain Figueroa	(1)	Carole Ricci	(1)
Rabbi Moshe Fuchs	(2)(1)	Blanche Comras Rifkin	(1)
Rev. Jay Gooding Sr.	(1)(1)	Martin Sacewicz	(1)
Debra Ann Jaffee	(0)	Vincent Taddeo	(1)(3)
Marilyne Jamieson	(1)	Joseph Thompson	(0)
Gerald Launer	(0)(1)	Eugene Tutora	(0)
David Leavitt	(1)	Sandra Ungert	(0)
Lilith Lozano	(1)	Elaine Weisbrot	(0)
Annette Marchitello	(1)(5)	Linda White	(2)(1)

EXCUSED

Kenneth Agosto	(1)(3)	Irene Rukaj	(0) (3)
Dorinda Castro	(4)(1)	Madeline Saltaformaggio	(1)(1)
Hazel Miura	(3)(4)	Joseph Reda	(2)(2)

ABSENT

Diane Cerino	(3)(1)	Kenneth Gelnick	(5)
Eiron Diaz	(3)	Hector Zorilla	(2)(1)
Rosemary Durso	(4)(1)		

OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS

Thomas Messina – Representing Congressman Joseph Crowley
Robert Turner – Representing Congressman Joseph Crowley

STAFF, BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S OFFICE AND AGENCY OFFICIALS

John Fratta, District Manager – Community Board #11
Harriet Lasky, Secretary – Community Board #11
Kathy Rodriguez – Representing Borough President Adolfo Carrion Jr.

GUESTS

P.O. Victor DiPiero – 49th Precinct Community Affairs
Gesille James – New York Public Library, Allerton Branch
Marisa Parish – New York Public Library, Belmont Branch
Joseph Carozza
Ms. Scanlan – Kings Harbor Multicare Center

NUMBERS IN **BOLD INDICATE EXCUSED ABSENCES**