



COMMUNITY BOARD #11, BRONX
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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, JUNE 26, 2003 IN CALVARY HOSPITAL

Dominic Castore, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:25 PM.

I. Guest Speakers

a. Vincent Gaglione – UFT Bronx Delegate

Mr. Gaglione stated that he was here tonight to speak about the Court of Appeals coming out on the amount of funding that the State provides to the City school system. He stated that the court stated that the State must provide additional funding to the City of New York. Mr. Gaglione stated that in the past funds have been diverted to other areas. We want to lower class sizes and need to have a City Charter Revision for this to happen.

b. Celeste Amalfitano – UFT

Ms. Amalfitano stated that she works in the Legislative Department of the UFT. She stated that they want to get 100,000 signatures to put the question on the ballot for November as to whether to have a commission or not. She stated that fact sheets were distributed on this. She also stated that she had petitions for anyone who wants to sign them.

Questions were asked by several Board members as to the number of teachers that would be needed, and what their qualifications would be. It was stated that smaller class sizes would mean safer classes.

II. Presentation to Deputy to Inspector James Shea
 Dom read the plaque.

Deputy Inspector Shea thanked everyone for this honor. He stated that Community Board #11 is the best board in the Bronx. He stated that they welcome and support everyone who comes to the 49th Precinct to work.

III. Gallery Session

a. Helene Samburg – NY Public Library Van Nest Branch
 Ms. Samburg reported that the Van Nest Library has been closed

since March. She stated that there is a temporary collection at Morningside Nursing Home on Tuesdays, Wednesday and Thursdays from 10 AM to 4 PM and on Mondays and Fridays from 1-4 PM. She stated that flyers were distributed. Ms Samburg reported that the work on the renovation at the Van Nest branch seems to be proceeding and they hope to open on time. She also stated that at this time she did not have any information on when the Allerton branch renovation work will begin.

b. Peter Murphy – 1902 Bronxdale Avenue

Mr. Murphy spoke the Quality of Life issues that have occurred due to the parking of cars from the Pines. He went into detail about driveways blocked, double parked cars and cars parked on the sidewalks.

John spoke about a meeting that Borough President Adolfo Carrion called. He stated that Dom Castore was there as well as P.O. Victor DePeirro from the 49th Precinct. John stated that the Borough President made it very clear that he expects strict enforcement of any blocking of driveways, any parking on sidewalks and any double parking. John stated that he asked the 49th Precinct not to do any enforcement until we can get a notice out to every homeowner on the block.

Vincent Taddeo spoke about people from the Pines telling him when he tried to park in front of the restaurant last night that they have Board permission to use this area for restaurant parking. He stated that when he told them that he is on the Community Board they had nothing to say.

Debbie spoke about the Pine taking over Muliner Avenue. She stated that the residents cannot park in their own driveways or walk down the streets. Debbie stated that they took over 3 other businesses and angle parked without the owners permission.

Eugene Tutora spoke about the Pine and stated that he felt we should take back the angle parking. He also spoke about their putting a commercial parking lot in a residential area. He also spoke about their C of O.

Dom said that if they don't conform we will take the angle parking away from them. Dom agreed with Eugene that their C of O should be checked for capacity.

John said we are meeting with the owner again in a month, and if he is not complying with the agreement we will deal with it.

Joe Thompson said that he was also at the Borough President's meeting. He stated that the Borough President made it very clear that we were going to look realistically at everything. He stated that he insisted that no blocking of driveways, no double parking, and that there is no angle parking in areas that are not supposed to have it. Joe stated that the other night when they angle parked cars where they should not of been he was called. He went by and called 311 and the police. Joe stated that summonses were issued. Joe asked that anyone who sees violations to call the Board office so that the police can take immediate action. He also stated that John is working on the C of O and talking to the Buildings Department.

Debbie stated that as a homeowner on that block she wanted a full investigation.

A great deal of discussion took place on the C of O for the new building at the Pine.

A discussion took place between Silvio and Dom as to why the Morris Park Association was not invited to the meeting with the Borough President.

IV. Minutes

A Motion was made by Rev. Leslie McHenry, Seconded by Debra Jaffee – That the Minutes be accepted as received. **PASSED.**

V. Chairman's Report – Dominic Castore

Dom reported that the Board members were handed a package that contains the Minutes from last month's meeting, minutes of several committee meetings, the Treasurer's Reports for the Community Board and the Friends of Community Board #11 as well as information on Community Board Conduct and Business.

He stated all members should **VERY CAREFULLY READ** this information because the way Community Board meetings are held will be as follows:

When the Committee is called on, if there are no motions or resolutions the Chair/Co-Chair of that Committee should state that we have no motions or resolutions and that the Minutes were distributed. Dom stated that there is no need for the Chair/Co-Chair to read these minutes. Dom told the Chairs/Co-Chairs to make sure that the Board staff receives your Minutes in plenty of time to prepare them for the meeting.

Committee meetings are not to be cancelled by the Chair of that committee until he/she has checked with the Co-Chair to see if they can take over the meeting. Frequent canceling of meetings delays the Board getting its job done and puts a hardship on the Board staff who now have to call the committee members and inform them of the cancellation. In some instances the staff were not able to reach some of the people and they showed up even in inclement weather.

Dom reported that if any Board member is not happy with the committee he/she is on to please notify him and he will make changes.

Dom reported Madeline Saltaformaggio may be going into the hospital for tests. John asked for a minute of reflection for Madeline.

Dom reported that Einstein Hospital is going to be leasing Van Etten Hospital. He reported that Joe Orlando Director of Jacobi Medical Center and Dominic Purpora, Dean of Einstein College spoke about leasing Van Etten for doctor's offices. He stated that this had to come before the Board before it can happen.

VI. District Manager's Report – John A Fratta

John reported that the Chairs and Co-Chairs must come to the Executive and Committee meetings so each knows what is going on and can take over for the other. John stated that if you can't make these meeting please notify the Board office and if we have to we will assign a new Chair or Co-Chair. John reported that all meetings must be held at night, except if you are meeting with a city agency.

Street Closing Applications

1. Application from Flora Cardinale of the 2200 Block of Gunther Avenue to close Gunther Avenue between Astor and Stillwell Avenues on September 6th with a rain date of September 13th from 10 AM to 8 PM for a Block Party.
2. Application from Diane Sanabria of the 2900 Block of Hone Avenue to close Hone Avenue between Arnow Avenue and Boston Road on August 9th with a rain date of August 16th from 11 AM to 8 PM for a Block Party
3. Application from Joseph Manfre of the 2500 Block of Westervelt Avenue to close Westervelt Avenue between Mace and Allerton Avenues on August 23rd with a rain date of August 24th from 10 Am to 8 PM for a Block Party

4. Application from Dr. David Stevens of the Narragansett Avenue Fair Committee to close Narragansett Avenue between Pelham Parkway South and Lydig Avenue on August 2nd with a rain date of August 3rd from 10 AM to 8 PM for a Block Party
5. Application from Vanessa Richard on behalf of the Grace Assembly Church to close Bouck Avenue between Gun Hill Road and Burke Avenue on August 30th from 10 AM to 8 PM for a Block Party
6. Application from Irene Rukaj for a mini Olympics on Wallace Avenue between Arnow Avenue and Williamsbridge Road on August 30th with a rain date of September 6th from 10 AM to 8 P M.
7. Application from LynnAnn Evers of 1874 Narragansett Avenue to close Narragansett Avenue between Rhinelander and Lakewood Avenues on August 30th with a rain date of August 31st from 11 AM to 8 PM for a Block Party

A Motion was made by Elaine Weisbrot, Seconded by Dom(which one) – That Community Board #11 send a letter to SAPO approving of these street closings. **PASSED.**

John stated that the Grace Church application would be approved of if the 7-Day Adventist have no problems with this date.

VII. Committee Reports

A. Parks and Recreation – Joseph Thompson

1. Loretto Park

Joe reported that Councilwoman Madeline Provenzano has allocated enough money for the Roller Hockey Rink. He stated that they had an on site visit with the Parks Commissioner. Joe stated that they discussed putting the Roller Rink into the softball field on a permanent basis. He stated that since that meeting there have been some objections to removing the softball fields permanently. Joe stated that this is on hold for now.

Joe reported that the June 25th Committee meeting to discuss the Dog Run, SkateBoard Park and Teen Concert was cancelled to allow for more political participation. He stated that it will be held on either July 9th or July 23rd. Joe said that we have to thank Debra, Lilly Bob Potter and Diane for the work they did to get these projects together as well as Councilman Oliver Koppel, Assemblyman Jeffrey Klein and Senator Ruth Thompson. He stated that they should all be in place by next year.

Discussion took place on removing the softball fields from Loretto Park. Joe Carofano stated that he wanted to go on record as saying that the softball field is run by someone who does not live in the community.

John said that we have a major problem with the adults who play ball in Loretto Park. He stated that they don't respect the community and they double and triple park. We are going to monitor who has permits for use of the park. John stated that the parks are for kids.

b. Economic Development – Joseph Thompson

1. The Pine Tavern – Joe reported that we were misinformed as to how the extension was going to be done, and the amount of seating. He stated that we did not do enough watching of what was being done. He stated that any violation of the rules that were agreed upon we will insist that summonses be issued and if they persist we will have them towed away. Joe said that we must work with the Borough President on this.

2. Alcoholic Beverage Licenses

- a. TMAC - 925 Allerton Avenue for on-premises consumption (NEW)

Joe reported that it seats 30-40 people and serve no food. Rev. McHenry reported that there are problems on Colden and Radcliff Avenues. She asked about conditions on granting of liquor licenses.

John said he would look into this and see if we can put conditions on this license.

A Motion was made by Joe Thompson, Seconded by Blanche Rifkin – That we table this and poll the Executive Committee take a vote on this during the summer. **PASSED.**

b. 1600 Pelham Parkway South Inc. – 1600 Pelham Parkway South for on-premises consumption (NEW)

A Motion was made by Joe Thompson, Seconded by Robert Potter – That Community Board #11 send a letter to the ABC that we have no objection to the issuing of this license. **PASSED.**

c. Wilkinson Café & Bar Corp. d/b/a Emergency Room – 1511 Wilkinson Avenue for on-premises consumption (NEW)

A Motion was made by Joe Thompson, Seconded by Elaine Weisbrot – That Community Board #11 send a letter to the ABC stating that we have no objections of the issuing of this license. **PASSED.**

Joe reported that Senator Guy Velella has introduced legislation to make sure that community boards get to look at bodegas and grocery stores before they get their license or renewal. He stated that we received a call from Community Board #8 supporting this legislation.

B. Health and Social Services – Blanche Rifkin

Blanche thanked John and the office for their help with her minutes. She stated that her minutes were distributed.

C. Housing – Rev. Leslie McHenry

Rev. McHenry reported that her minutes were distributed.

D. Education and Culture – Robert Potter

Bob reported that the minutes had been distributed. He also reported that he had attended a meeting where he learned that we were supposed to get 3 new schools in the district. Bob stated that we lost one to Riverdale. We are getting a school in Van Nest, which will have 900 seats, the others are in School District 11 but not Community Board #11.

A Motion was made by Silvio Mazzella, Seconded by Robert Potter – That Community Board #11 send a letter of support in favor of small classes and encourage all other community boards to do the same. **PASSED**

E. Public Safety – Joseph Reda

Joe reported that the minutes had been distributed. He also reported that he had met with Captain Pablo Martinez about the manpower issue. He stated that we lost 5,000 public officers since the start of Safe Streets/Safe City.

The stats for June 2003 as compared to June 2002 are:

Murder	-0-	Robbery	up 23%
Rape	down 66%	Felonious Assaults	down 35%
Burglaries	up 2%	Grand Larceny	down 33%
GLA	up 17%		

Joe reported that they are stealing a lot of lights from Acuras. He stated that the Captain is addressing the problem of stolen cars.

Silvio reported that the National Night Out would be on August 5th at Pelham Parkway. September 23rd is Lt. Clesse Memorial Run at 9:30 AM in memory of 911. It will be held at Pelham Parkway South and Eastchester Road. Silvio reported that the 49th Precinct Council meeting will be held on September 30 with the location to be announced.

F. Treasurer's Report – Silvio Mazzella

Silvio reported that the Treasurer's Report and the Friends of Community Board #11 Report had been distributed. He stated that that Board was audited by the Comptroller's Office and he commended them on the preliminary report, which they passed.

G. Community Development and Budget Priorities – Silvio Mazzella

A Motion was made by Silvio Mazzella, Seconded by Rev. Leslie McHenry - That Community Board #11 empower the Committee to make a decision on the District Needs Statement. He stated that they were few changes.

John stated that if anyone wants a copy of last year's Statement of Needs to call the office.

Silvio asked that a letter be sent on the fact that one PSA8 officer is covering 3 Housing Developments. John said that this is going to be a budget item, and that he is setting up a meeting with Chief Izzo at which he would like Silvio, Joe Reda and Rev. McHenry to attend.

H. Sanitation and Environmental Protection – Dominick DeProspo

Dom reported that the minutes had been distributed. He reported that he learned this morning that recycling is going to become every other week starting July 14th. John reported that starting next week plastic has to be put in with the recycling. Debbie reported that there are flyers available in the back on illegal dumping. She stated that you get 1/2 the fine for reporting this. John reported that the Mayor personally called every community board to let them know that Sanitation pickups will not be cut. They will remain twice a week.

I. Nominating Committee – Robert Potter

Bob reported that the following people were running unopposed: Dom Castore for Chairman; Joseph Thompson for Second Vice Chair; Silvio Mazzella for Treasurer and Ruth Burko for Secretary.

In the Secretary's absence Silvio cast one vote for these candidates.

Ballots were then handed out for the First Vice Chair position. The count was Rev. Leslie McHenry 11 votes, Vincent Prezioso 22 votes and 1 invalid vote.

Those voting for Rev. McHenry were: Junior Campbell; Dominic Castore; Priscilla Crowell; Rev. Leslie McHenry; Dominick DeProspo; Patrick Dolan; Robert Potter; Pat Quaranta; Martin Sacewicz; Eugene Tutora and Hector Zorilla.

Those voting for Vincent Prezioso were: Joseph Bacote; Joseph Carfora; Dorinda Castro; Diane Cerino; John Dennehy; Harain Figueroa; Debra Jaffee; Marilynne Jamieson; Lilithe Lozano; Gerald Launer; David Leavitt; Evelyn Martinez; Joseph McManus; Silvio Mazzella; Dr. Mahendra Patel; Vincent Prezioso; Joseph Reda; Carole Ricci; Blanche Rifkin; Joseph Thompson; Elaine Weisbrot; and Sandra Unger.

There was 1 invalid vote.

Vinny thanked Rev. McHenry for the hard work she did during her term.

Dom congratulated Vinny and thanked Rev. McHenry for the work she has done over the years.

Rev. McHenry congratulated Vinny and stated that she knew that he would do the job justice.

VIII. Old Business

Bob Potter reported that at the last Executive Board meeting they voted to have Ids for the Board members. John said that we are in the process of waiting for clarification from Corporation Counsel. He stated that we cannot issue Ids without approval from the City. Corporation Counsel is looking into the legality of this. We will be working on this over the summer.

IX. New Business

Priscilla reported that the Eastchester Houses is having their Annual Event on Saturday, July 26th from 10 AM to 8 PM, and on July 12th they will have the Caribbean Festival.

Dom DeProspero reported that on July 1st there will be fireworks at Orchard Beach, sponsored by Senator Guy Veleva. He also reported that the Carnival to raise money for the Columbus Day Parade will be held at Trojan Field in Bronx Park on August 12th. The Grand Marshall will be Father Louis Gigante.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Burko,
Secretary

RB/hl