



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, MARCH 25, 2004 IN CALVARY HOSPITAL

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by Vincent Prezioso, First Vice Chair.

I. GALLERY SESSION

- a. The following people spoke in favor of a permanent Roller Hockey Rink: Robert G. Milano, Joey Carfora Jr. and Tiffany Melilla.
- b. The following people spoke against a permanent Roller Hockey Rink: Pat DeBellis, John C. Cummings, Frank Porco, William DeToma, Andy Reid Jr., Robert Elston, Al Vicinanza and Andy Reid Sr.
- c. Greg Kisloff spoke about the trestle on Muliner Avenue between Lydig and Brady Avenues. He also spoke about the letter that he sent a letter to the Commission of Health about a histoplasmosis problem. He also spoke about a pilot program that is in the system for pigeon mitigation. Greg also spoke about the dumping at the trestles, and thanked the Board and its staff for following up on the clean up. Greg also spoke about graffiti at the facade of the stairwell at Paulding and Bogart Avenues as well as the peeling paint and garbage there. He also spoke about the Charles M Lee triangle which is an eyesore. Greg asked if the Board was going to reach out the community for the May 1st cleanup.

John reported that the pigeon program is a 6 month pilot program, and if it is successful we will go right into it. He also reported that 25 groups have signed up for the May 1st clean up which Debbie is spear heading.

II. Minutes

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

III. Chairman's Report – Vincent Prezioso, First Vice Chair

Vinny reported that Mabel Ostroga, the wife of passed Board member Seymour Ostroga who passed away a few years ago died last week. We send condolences to her family.

Vinny congratulated Silvio on becoming President of the Morris Park Association. Vinny reported that Dom Castore is recuperating from having Hip and knee surgery and will return in May.

Vinny reported that he had attended the Borough Board meeting in which they discussed the problem we are having with the State Liquor Authority. He stated that people applying for a license receive it before the Board receives their notice. They are suppose to submit to the Board 30 days before they apply to the SLA and have certified proof that they have done so. When we spoke to SLA about this, they said they did not have the time to check on this. Vinny spoke about that an establishment that we turned down, but got their license and then there was a murder there.

Vinny stated that off-premises liquor consumption establishments are not included in this rule. He stated that we asked Senator Guy Velella to introduce legislation on this. It was passed, and we are now asking Assemblyman Jeffery Klein to bring it before the Assembly for approval.

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

John reported that construction has begun on the Morris Park library. He stated that they are awaiting one more permit. John stated that we thank Councilwoman Madeline Provenzano for all she making this dream a reality.

John reported that there was a 4 alarm fire on Van Buren Street on Thursday, March 18th in which 4 houses were damaged. He thanked the Fire Department and the 49th Precinct for their rapid response. John also thanked the Borough President's and the Mayor's staff that was on hand to assist the victims. John stated that no residents were hurt, though one firefighter was.

John reported on a meeting that was held with Ms. Wendt about the Van Nest library renovations. He stated that Marina King from Senator Diaz's office was there. John reported that \$220,000 was spent on lighting replacements, window pane replacements, painting the interior and exterior of the facility and abatement of the ceiling. He stated that we want a complete renovation which will cost \$2,480,000. John stated that we are setting this as one of our budget priorities.

John reported that he is meeting with students who used to be gang leaders, and now are leaders at Columbus high School in April. He stated that the Council for Unity has made a difference in gang atmosphere at Columbus.

a. Street Closing Permits

1. Application by Felicia Parchen of the 1900 Block of Tomlinson Avenue to close Tomlinson Avenue between Neill and Rhinelander Avenues on July 24th with a Rain date of July 31st for a Block party from 11 AM to 8 PM.

2. Application by Tie Allen of the Concerned Parents/Youth of Eastchester Gardens to close Adee Avenue between Pearsall and Tenbroeck Avenues on July 10th with a rain date of July 17th for a Block party/Street Festival from 10 AM to 8 PM.

A Motion was made by Kenneth Agosto, Seconded by Silvio Mazzella – That Community Board 11 send a letter to CAU stating that we have no objection to the granting of these street permits.

PASSED.

3. Application by Diane Emmons of the Eastchester Nursery School to close Waring Avenue between Eastchester Road and Fenton Avenue on June 12th with a rain date of June 19th for a School Fund Raiser 10 AM to 6 PM.

A Motion was made by Debra Ann Jaffee, Seconded by John Dennehy – That Community Board 11 send a letter to CAU stating that we have no objection to the granting of this street permit.

PASSED.

V. Treasurer's Report – Silvio Mazzella

Silvio reported that the Board's Treasurer's Report as well as the Friend's of Community Board #11 had been distributed. Anyone with questions should see Harriet or himself.

VI. Borough President's Report – Kathy Rodriguez

Kathy reported that she was pleased to see the community turnout and hoped it would continue even when there is not such a personal issue.

Kathy reported that she would be spear heading the clean up for the Borough President's office, and that they are thinking about having a graffiti removal component as a follow up. She stated that she would have more information at the April 1st meeting.

1. State of the Borough Address: Carrion launches "The Bronx At Work Campaign"
2. Launch of website WWW.THEBRONXATWORK.COM to access information about jobs and training programs.
3. Partner with the Bronx One-Stop Career Center to create job connections
4. Pilot program for Bronx high schools students with Standards & Poors as part of the "Bronx Wall Street Financial Education Program"
5. Job Creation Summit to bring experts from the Bronx's strong health care sector & other institutions to link labor sector through one office.
6. Create "Bronx JobTV", a listing of jobs available on local cable access.
7. 30 new small high schools to be built in the Bronx thanks to philanthropic and private donations.
8. Borough President allocates \$3 million dollars for technology projects that support curriculum in the public schools. Cable Vision will install high-speed internet access in every Bronx School.
9. Team Up to Clean-Up on May 1st. Call 718-590-3914 for more information
10. May 4th Hearts & Hammers Free Home Renovations for Bronx Elderly & Persons with Disabilities. To volunteer on May 22nd call Caroline at 718-892-5520.
11. Wednesday, March 31st Irish Heritage celebration at 7 PM at Gaelic Park
12. Free Tax Assistance Day, Friday March 26th.

Silvio asked Kathy to relate to the Borough President that he did a great job reading at Bedtime for Tots.

VII. Committee Reports

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A. Education and Culture - Robert Potter

Peter Steinberg from the Department of Education, Region II spoke about the proposal to convert Mercy College into a high school. He stated that a portion of the students coming into this new school would be 9th graders that were held back, and the rest would be new 9th graders.

A great deal of discussion took place on this item. Questions were asked by several Board members pertaining to:

1. How many students would be at the new site?
2. Where would the 9th graders go after completing this grade?
3. How many students would be at Columbus?
4. Would there be split sessions in September?
5. How would the gang problem and transportation on the #12 bus be taken care of?
6. What about the overcrowding at P.S. 105?
7. How will removing 450 students from Columbus help?
8. Would DOE consider the parking garage next to Mercy College if it became available?
9. How will DOE handle all the schools dismissing at the same time?
10. What assurances does the community have of safety?
11. What about the problems of youth hanging out at Mercy College now?
12. How many Academies will there be at Columbus in September?
13. Will there be new staff, or will the staff come from Columbus?
14. Does DOE have a contingency plan if this is not approved?

Mr. Steinberg answered the questions:

1. There would be between 450 and 500 students at Mercy High School.
2. The 9th graders would then go back to Columbus.
3. There would be a decrease in the number of students at Columbus due to students that are going to the new school and that it is expected that more students would be going to Academies.
4. If there is no new school, Columbus would remain on split sessions.
5. DOE is very concerned about this and is carefully looking into handling it.
6. Overcrowding at Columbus is far more than at P.S. 105.
7. It would lessen the need for split sessions.
8. If and when this occurred the School Construction Authority would have to look into the feasibility of it and the cost.
9. It can be arranged that all the schools are not dismissed at the same time.
10. DOE is concerned about the community's safety and would do what it could.
11. This would be addressed
12. There will still only be 5 Academies at Columbus.
13. Some staff will come from Columbus and others from other areas.
14. There is no contingency plan.

Bob Potter made a Motion and it was Seconded by Kenneth Agosto:

Whereas, Community Board 11 held a public hearing on the proposed new high school and 100% of the residents testifying opposed the creation of a high school at this location, and

Whereas, Community Board 11 has been fighting for many years for 2 new elementary schools in our district, and

Whereas, Community Board 11 listed these two priorities high in our capital budget for many years, and

Whereas, all our elementary schools are operating way over capacity, and

Whereas, PS 105 has an enrollment of 1526 students in a school that was built for 1000 students, and

Whereas, many of our children are being taught in portable classrooms in school yards, also known as trailers

Whereas, Christopher Columbus High School has been severely over crowded causing many problems for our community, and

Whereas, the Department of Education has refused to place caps on both Columbus High School and the new proposed high school

Therefore be it resolved that Community Board 11 objects to the creation of a high school for the Mercy College site on Antin Place and

Let it further be resolved that we urge the Department to adhere to our budget requests of many years and utilize this site for an elementary school to serve as an annex to PS 105.

Those voting in favor of the Motion were: Kenneth Agosto, Junior Campbell, Joseph Carfora, Dorinda Castro, Diane Cerine, Priscilla Crowell, John Dennehy, Patrick Dolan, Harain Figueroa, Rabbi Moshe Fuchs, Kenneth Gelnick, Debra Ann Jaffee, Marilyne Jamieson, David Leavitt, Lilithe Lozano, Annette Marchitello, Salvo Mazzella, Rev. Leslie McHenry, Hazel Miura, Diane Norris, Mary Paliotta, Robert Potter, Vincent Prezioso, Pat Quaranta, Joseph Reda, Blanche Comras Rifkin, Irene Rukaj, Martin Sacewicz, Joseph Thompson, Eugene Tutoroa, Sandra Unger, Elaine Weisbrot, Linda White.

Those voting against the Motion were: Joseph Bacote, Evelyn Martinez, Joseph McManus and Dr. Mahendra Patel.

The Motion passed with 33 in favor and 4 against.

B. Parks and Recreation - Joseph Thompson

Joe reported that the Parks Committee has been holding meetings on the Roller Hockey Rink since November 2002. Joe reported that the Committee had invited people to come to their meetings from the softball league, people who were in favor of keeping the softball field intact and people from the roller hockey league to have a say about the park. He stated that only people from the roller hockey league came to the meetings.

Joe explained that the Parks Committee voted to approve the renovations, and brought this before the Board for a vote. He stated that this was done with a lot of reservations. Joe spoke about the fact that there are only 2 parks in our area for the youth. He stated that this field was mainly used by adults who did not live in our area. Joe stated that the Committee looked at the amount of players in the roller hockey and what this organized sport would be contributing to the growth of the youth. He explained that the youth of our community were not able to use these fields. Joe further stated that Councilwoman Provenzano is building a new field at I.S. 144.

Several Board members spoke about:

1. The fact that Loretto Park field became unsafe do to balls being hit over the fence breaking car windows, hitting buildings and baby carriages
2. Emergency vehicles could not get in do to double and triple parking on Morris Park, Tomlinson and Haight Avenues

3. Concerts and soccer would still be held in the park
4. It was asked how long the hockey season was, and it was stated that now it runs from September to April because then softball takes over.
5. With the new roller rink they will have roller hockey all year round
6. They would be able to have tournament games without having to travel
7. The public would be able to use the roller rink when the League was not using it
8. A question of how the park would be able to be used if the League had to lock it was

asked?

Thomas Lucania explained how the Waterbury-LaSalle Rink works. He stated that whoever has the permit is responsible for maintenance and closing the park. Thomas stated when the group that has the permit is not using it, it would be open for the public, but they would be responsible to closing it.

John introduced the representatives of the elected officials: Thomas Massena of Congressman Crowley's office, Marina of Senator Diaz's office, Thomas Lucania of Councilwoman Provenzano's office and Libbi Locascio representing Senator Vellella.

Marina King stated that she had several items to bring before the Board.

1. The office of Comptroller Hevesi knows that every year knows about unclaimed money. Ismal Malagman will be going to senior centers and check their names and social security number against the list of unclaimed money.

2. What to do when stopped by Police
3. National Victims Rights Week – April 18th 2 PM at West End Collegiate Church
4. First Annual Bronx College Readiness Day & College Fair on March 27th
5. Press Release on Avoid Lead Poisoning in Our Children
6. Senator Diaz calls for minimum wage raise
7. April 23 Seniors going to Albany for Lunch sponsored by Senator Diaz
8. April 23 – 25 is Somas Lel Futuro
9. African American Caribbean One Nation Bronx Parade on September 12th.

C. Economic Development – Joseph Thompson

1. Alcohol Beverage Control Licenses

- a. Korfine Inc. – 2525 Wallace Avenue for on-premises consumption (NEW)

Joe explained that this was the old Atlantic Café that the Board had voted in opposition of. He reported that they got their license and there were problems there.

A Motion was made by Joe Thompson, Seconded by John Dennehy – That the Board send a letter to the SLA stated that we are against the issuing of this license. **PASSED**

b. Puebla Restaurant Corp. – 2141 White Plains Road for on-premises consumption (RENEWAL)

A Motion was made by Joe Thompson, Seconded by Silvio Mazzella – That the Board send a letter to the SLA stating that we have no objection to the issuing of this license. **PASSED**

D. Health and Social Services – Blanche Rifkin

Blanche reported that the Minutes were included with the Board Agenda, she thanked Harriet for getting them done and her Co-Chair for her help.

E. Public Safety – Joseph Reda

Joe reported that the 49th Precinct has only 130 officers. He stated that with the summer coming we will lose some to Yankee Stadium, Orchard Beach, the Botanical Garden and the Bronx Zoo. He also spoke about the problems with kids coming out of Columbus High School and I.S. 135 and causing problems on the streets.

Stats for February:

Murder	up 4%
Robbery	up 14%
Felonious Assaults	down 27%
Burglary	up 5.5%
Grand Larceny	down 3.1%
Grand Larceny Auto	down 28 %

F. Sanitation and Environmental Protection – DebraAnn Jaffee

Debra reported that the Minutes had been submitted. She stated that there was going to be a Beautification meeting on April 1st. She asked everyone to show up and volunteer.

A Motion was made by Debra Jaffee, Seconded by Kenneth Agosto – That Community Board 11 send a letter to the City Council that the Clean Up After Your Pet law be enforced, and that more signs be posted on this. **PASSED**

G. Land Use – Joseph McManus

Joe reported that there will be a meeting on April 21st at 7:00 PM in the Board office.

H. Youth – Linda White

Linda reported that there were no Minutes available from the March meeting at this time. She stated that they would be included with next month's package. Linda reported that the next Youth meeting would be on April 19th at 7:30 PM in the Board office.

IX. New Business

Silvio reported that the 49th Precinct Council meeting would be held on March 30th at 7:30 PM at the Eastchester Houses.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Burko, Co-Chair
Education and Culture Committee

RB

ATTENDANCE AT MEETING OF MARCH 25, 2004

PRESENT

Kenneth Agosta	(1)	Rev. Leslie McHenry	(0)(3)
Joseph Bacote	(0)(1)	Joseph McManus	(0)
Junior Campbell	(2)	Hazel Miura	(1)(1)
Joseph Carfora	(0)(1)	Diane Norris	(1)(1)
Dorinda Castro	(1)	Mary Paliotta	(0)
Diane Cerino	(1)	Dr. Mahendra Patel	(2)
Priscilla Crowell	(3)	Robert Potter	(0)
John Dennehy	(0)	Vincent Prezioso	(0)
Pat Dolan	(1)	Pat Quaranta	(0)(1)
Harain Figueroa	(0)	Joseph Reda	(2)
Rabbi Moshe Fuchs	(1)	Blanche Comras Rifkin	(0)(1)
Kenneth Gelnick	(0)(4)	Irene Rukaj	(0)(1)
Debra Ann Jaffee	(0)	Martin Sacewicz	(1)
Marilyne Jamieson	(1)	Joseph Thompson	(0)(2)
David Leavitt	(1)	Eugene Tutora	(0)
Lilith Lozano	(0)	Sandra Unger	(0)
Annette Marchitello	(1)	Elaine Weisbrot	(0)(1)
Evelyn Martinez	(0)	Linda White	(0)(3)
Silvio Mazzella	(1)		

ABSENT

Ruth Burko	(1)(2)	Gerald Launer	(3)
Eiron Diaz	(6)	Hector Zorilla	(3)(1)
Rev. Jay Gooding Sr.	(5)		

EXCUSED

Dominic Castore	(0)(2)	Madeline Saltaformaggio	(1)(5)
Carole Ricci	(1)(1)	Vincent Taddeo	(0)(3)

EX OFFICIO BOARD MEMBERS

Thomas Lucania – Representing Councilwoman Madeline Provenzano

OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS

Marina King – Representing Senator Ruben Diaz

Libbi Locascio – Representing Senator Guy Velella

Todd Ferrara – Representing Assemblyman Jeffrey Klein

STAFF, BOROUGH PRESIDENT AND AGENCY OFFICIALS:

John Fratta, District Manager – Community Board #11

Harriet Lasky, Secretary – Community Board #11

Margaret Guglielmo, Community Aide- Community Board #11

Kathy Rodriguez – Representing Borough President Adolfo Carrion Jr.

P.O. Chris T. Traumer-49th Precinct Community Affairs

GUESTS

Gesille James – New York Public Library

*Number in parenthesis indicate absences from September, 2003. **Numbers in Bold indicate Excused absences since September, 2003.**