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Dominic Castore
Chairman

Adolfo Carrion, Jr.
Borough President

John A. Fratta
District Manager

COMMITTEES

Allerton

Bronx Park
 East/Ollinville

Community
 Development and Budget
 Priorities

Education/Youth

Indian
 Village/Westchester Hgts

Land Use

Morris Park/Van Nest

Pelham Gardens

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2009 IN
LUBIN HALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM by
Vincent Prezioso, First Vice Chair.

I. Elected Officials

a. Jeremy Warneke – representing Councilman James
Vacca

Jeremy reported that Councilman Vacca had attended the opening of the Pelham Parkway Little League. Jeremy reported that the defensive driver’s course is full. Anyone interested should call the office and we will try and set one up. He also stated that if anyone wanting to set one up, to call and they would sponsor it.

Jeremy spoke about a request for a speed bump at Paulding Avenue between Morris Park and Rhinelander Avenues. John stated that DOT rejected this.

Jeremy spoke about drugs being sold on Cruger Avenue. He also spoke about a letter that Councilman Vacca sent to the MTA on pigeon poop. He stated that we are requesting that they put up netting.

b. Charisse Suarez – representing Assemblywoman
Naomi Rivera

Charisse reported on a paid Internship for the summer. She also reported that they are working on a program Aging out of Foster Care.

c. Mark Goreczy – representing Senator Jeffrey Klein
Mark reported that Senator Klein is sponsoring an Earthquake Relief Benefit on Friday, April 24th at Maestro’s.

All money will go to benefit the victims of the Abruzzo earthquake.

Mark reported that there will be a graffiti cleanup on Morris Park, Allerton and Bronxdale Avenues.

II. Gallery Session

a. Mike Heller – Albert Einstein College of Medicine

Mr. Heller welcomed the Board to Lubin Hall. He reported that tomorrow we are serving as the venue for Assemblywoman Naomi Rivera's Aging out of Foster Care.

Mr. Heller spoke about the Harvest Farmer's Market and how good it has been for the community.

John stated that the Board is in favor of the one at Jacobi but opposes the one at Loreto Playground due to parking issues.

Joe Reda voiced his feelings against the Farmer's Market.

b. Monica Major – CEC 11 president

Ms. Major spoke about meeting with the Education Committee. She reported that the CEC had passed a resolution on rezoning of the northeast region of the board. She stated that the Panel for Education is coming to District 11 on Monday. Ms. Major stated that the CEC would like to come before the Board,

John thanked her for rezoning of our schools and stated that we are waiting for the rezoning of 144.

Ms. Major stated that they hope to have this completed before June 30th. She stated that they are asking for full middle school choice. Ms. Major reported that the new school was completed with help from Councilman Vacca and will receive students from 105, 83 and 108.

John stated that the Board would like to create neighborhood schools.

Ms. Major distributed copies of the following:

Recommendations on School Governance

Six Myths of Mayoral Control

Summary of Recommendations of Public School Governance in New York City

List of Schools submitted for rezoning

Reasons to reform Mayoral control now

c. Brian Adams

Mr. Adams asked if there was a time frame to rebuilding the stores that were destroyed by the fire on the southeast corner of White Plains Road and Lydig Avenue. John stated that is up to the owners.

Mr. Adams suggested that the Board hold one of its meetings at the Elias Karman Senior Center at 2424 Boston Road.

III. Minutes

A Motion was made by Blanche Rifkin, Seconded by Joe Bombace – That the Minutes be accepted as received. PASSED

IV. Chairman's Report – Vincent Prezioso

Vinny reported that Dom will be back next week. He reported that there will be an Executive Session after the Board meeting.

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

John reported that we have three abandoned in our community. He stated that at Bronxwood Avenue between Williamsbridge Road and Arnow Avenue the fence is all over the sidewalk. John stated that Sanitation gave out tickets today. He stated that he is trying to have HPD declare it unsafe, and then we can have it demolished. At 1116 Pierce Avenue I saw work going on without permits. John stated that the owner was not there. He stated that Buildings is going to go out there tomorrow and they will be fined if there are no permits.

John spoke about the property owned by Walter Sackow on Morris Park Avenue next to Changing Seasons. John stated that work is going on with no permits. He stated that he went there yesterday. John stated that we will monitor it closely and if work is going on we will have them arrested. John reported that he heard it was going to be a Gourmet Deli. He stated that he asked the 49th Precinct to go there.

John reported that he received calls about an individual on Haight Avenue who is repairing cars at his residence. John stated that every time he has gone there no car repairs were going on. He stated that he told the police to go there.

Déjà vu – John reporting that he is going to check our Déjà vu and others spots on Saturday to see if they are complying. He stated

that he would also be checking on the Royal Coach Diner.

John reported that he received a letter from Commissioner Moran that the conversion of Tomlinson Avenue is feasible, and the right thing to do, He stated that DOT needs a letter from us confirming this.

A Motion was made by Joe Thompson, Seconded by Vinny Taddeo and Anthony Vitaliano - That Community Board 11 send a letter to DOT confirming our request to have the flow of traffic changed on Tomlinson Avenue. PASSED WITH 2 ABSTENTIONS FROM AL D'ANGELO AND SILVIO MAZZELLA

John reported that Delancy Street will be made one way.

Joe Reda reported that there is a lot of drug activity going on in our community. He requested that a member of the Bronx Narcotic Team be invited to speak at a Board meeting.

Joe Reda asked what stores were going into the Gun Hill Road Mall. John stated that there will be a TGIF and a Duane Reade. He stated that there are still vacant stores and we are hoping for a supermarket.

John spoke about the changes in the meters. He stated that they are now \$.25 for 20 minutes. John stated that the Board was never notified before this change took place.

Jeremy reported that Councilman Vacca has a bill because of the traffic agents.

Jeremy reported that Councilman Vacca has legislation pending so that before a developer can build on new property he must resolve any violation on other property he owns.

VI. Treasurer's Report – Silvio Mazzella

Silvio reported that there was no report tonight. He stated that there were no changes. There will be a report next month.

VII. Borough President's Report – Andy Toledo

Andy reported that they period for Community Board applications has been extending. He stated that the new Borough President will be sworn in on May 1st.

VIII. Committee Reports

**A. Bronx Park East/Olinville – Joseph Thompson
Mosholu Montefiore Community Center Program at Eastchester Gardens**

Joe reported that it is an excellent program that runs from 12-8. Application from Herma Stevens on behalf of the Pelham Parkway Residents Council to close Paulding Avenue between Astor and Waring Avenues on July 18th from 12 PM to 9 PM for a Block Party.

A Motion was made by Joe Thompson, Seconded by Bob Potter – That Community Board 11 send a letter to SAPO stating that we have no objection to the issuing of this street closing. PASSED

Joe McManus asked about noise decibels codes. Joe Thompson stated that if the noise is excessive the police can ask them to turn it down or shut it down. He stated that it is up to the precinct.

Loading Zone for 902 Allerton Avenue

Joe stated that the Board had tabled this at last month's meeting. He stated that he spoke with the owners of the businesses and 2 homes on the block and they did not have a problem with. Joe stated that they would be using about 1 ½ spaces from 8 – 10 AM. Monday-Friday.

A Motion was made by Joe Thompson, Seconded by Bob Potter – That Community Board 11 send a letter to DOT requesting that this loading zone be approved. PASSED WITH 1 OPPOSED FROM DR. PATEL AND 1 ABSTENTION FROM GENE TUTORA.

A great deal of discussion took place on this location.

B. Indian Village/Westchester Heights – Michael Carriere

Michael reported that the Minutes had been submitted.

Street Permits

1. Application by Vivian Ballantese to close Narragansett Avenues between Rhineland and Neill Avenues on August 22nd from 11 AM to 8 PM for a Block Party

A Motion was made by Michael Carriere, Seconded by Joe Reda – That Community Board 11 notify SAPO that we have no objection to the issuing of this street closing. PASSED

2. Application by Liam Moffatt on behalf of the Poplar Street Community Association to close Poplar Street between Lurting Avenue and Williamsbridge Road on July 18th from 12 Noon to 9:00 PM with a rain date of July 19th for a Block Party.

A Motion was made by Michael Carriere, Seconded by Joe Reda – That a vote on this application be tabled as Mr. Moffatt did not come to the committee meeting. PASSED

Liquor Licenses

Mosienzo Restaurant Inc. d/b/a Enzo's Restaurant at 1998 Williamsbridge Road for on-premises consumption (RENEWAL)

A Motion was made by Michael Carriere, Seconded by Sandi Unger – That Community Board 11 send a letter to the SLA stating that we have no objection to the issuing of this liquor license renewal. PASSED

Kiraku Sushi at 1948 Williamsbridge Road for on-premises consumption (NEW)

A Motion was made by Michael Carriere, Seconded by Joanne Rubino – That Community Board 11 send a letter to the SLA stating that we have no objection to the issuing of this license. PASSED

John spoke about a problem with double and triple parking on Stillwell Avenue. He stated that he would send letters to the businesses to clean this up themselves.

John reported on odors emanating from 1543-1545 Stillwell Avenue. He stated that he notified Buildings and Fire to go out there. John stated that when the agencies went out there they did not smell anything. He stated that he would add it to the District Service Cabinet Agenda.

Michael reported that the committee will be going out to do graffiti clean up this weekend. He asked anyone who has an area that needs to be cleaned to contact the Board office. Michael stated that he needs approval of the owner and needs to know the color of the paint needed.

Dr. Patel asked if the business is licensed. He stated that there is no signage on the building. Dr. Patel stated that the door is closed.

Dr. Patel spoke about the sign at the Eastchester Road gate that says No Left Turn. He stated that no one observes this sign.

John said that he would look into it.

C. Morris Park/Van Nest – Al D'Angelo

Liquor Licenses

Bronxdale Diner- 1506 Bronxdale Avenue for on-premises consumption (RENEWAL)

A Motion was made by Al D'Angelo, Seconded by Michael Carriere - That Community Board 11 send a letter to the SLA stating that we have no objection to the issuing of this renewal license. PASSED

Y.O's Restaurant – 702 Morris Park Avenue for on-premises consumption (NEW)

A Motion was made by Al D'Angelo, Seconded by Silvio Mazzella – That Community Board 11 send a letter to the SLA stating that we have no objection to the issuing of this license. PASSED WITH 1 OPPOSED FROM JOE BOMBACE

EI Rescoldo Steakhouse – 1004 Morris Park Avenue for on-premise consumption (NEW)

A Motion was made by Al D'Angelo, Seconded by Joe Bombace – That Community Board 11 send a letter to the SLA rejecting this application as they did not come to our committee meeting. PASSED

D. Pelham Gardens – Anthony Vitaliano

Tony reported that the Committee had met on April 21st.

Application from Joe Bacote on behalf on the Wickham/Gunther/Lodovick Avenue Homeowners Association to close Gunther Avenue between Waring and Mace Avenues on August 1st from 11 Am to 7 PM for a Block Party.

A Motion was made by Anthony Vitaliano, Seconded by Sandi Unger – That Community Board 11 send a letter to SAPO stating that we have no objection to the issuing of this street closing. PASSED WITH 1 ABSTENTION FOR CAUSE FROM JOE BACOTE

E. Allerton – Rabbi Fuchs

Application by Dwayne Williams on behalf of residents of the 2900 block of O'Neil Place to close O'Neil Place between Arnow Avenue and Gun Hill Road on June 20th from 1 PM to 8 PM for a for a Family Day.

A Motion was made by Rabbi Moshe Fuchs, Seconded by Sandy Unger – That Community Board 11 send a letter to SAPO stating that we have no objection to the issuing of this street closing. PASSED

Application from Community Car Service at 1332 East Gun Hill to renew its livery base license.

A Motion was made by Rabbi Moshe Fuchs, Seconded by Bob Potter – That Community Board 11 send a letter to the TLC stating that we have no objection to the renewal of this livery base license.

PASSED

F. Youth and Education – John Fratta

John reported that he attended this meeting. He stated that there were representatives from DYCD. John reported that the Summer Youth Employment Applications are available. He stated that the deadline for filing is May 15th. John stated that there are no income requirement. He stated that we have application in the office and they are available on line. The applications are for youths 14-24 years of age. John said that he would be sending letters to the neighborhood associations and the newspapers about this.

John reported that the Equality Charter School is going to be going to PS 160 in Co-op City.

IX. New Business

Joe McManus reported that the height of the 911 Center has lowered. He stated that the city is looking into using the stables property for a staging area for the job.

Joe Reda asked about the site for Walgreen’s Pharmacy next to Citi Bank on Williamsbridge Road.

John reported that it is stuck in City Planning. He stated that CPC is asking for different documents. John stated that if it falls through we might get a super market.

John reported that Walgreen’s would be coming to the Land Use meeting as they need a letter of support. He suggested that they meet in conjunction with the Morris Park and Indian Village Committees.

Dr. Patel asked about revising demapping Bassett Avenue from McDonald Street to Pelham Parkway South.

John reported that plans for the stable property is on hold until completion of the 911 building. He stated that for at least 4 years nothing will happen. John stated that the other site is supposed to be for housing.

St. Francis Street Closing

John reported that a deal has been worked out with the city. He stated that Senator Klein and Councilman Vacca and worked with

Parks Department and St. Francis Church in getting this resolved. John gave the background on the rejected applications. He stated that they will be using the sidewalk outside Loreto Park for 3 days and have a full street closing for one day where they will use the park for a mass or a concert. John said that at the mass they will sell 50/50 raffles to help the church raise money. John reported that the Board sent a letter to the Mayor and all the community boards voicing our objection to the moratorium on multi day and multi block street closing as they are bias to the outer boroughs. He stated that we have not received a response to our letter.

John reported that the Daily News is doing a story on this.

Jessica Dewberry introduced Manny Lagares who will be our liaison to City Planning. She stated that he is a U.L.U.R.P. expert.

Application from Valerie Di Michele to close Tomlinson Avenue between Neill and Rhinelander Avenues on July 18th with a rain date of July 19th for a block party.

A Motion was mad by Mike Carriere, Seconded by Joe Thurston – That Community Board 11 send a letter to SAPO stating that we have no objection to the issuing of this street closing application. PASSED

A Motion was made by Rabbi Moshe Fuchs, Seconded by Anthony Vitaliano – That Community Board 11 send a letter to the new Borough President inviting him to a Board meeting. PASSED

John reported that the there had been an abduction in the 47th Precinct that then went into the 45th Precinct where shots were fired. The car then ended up on Kingsland Avenue. John reported that they are looking for the perpetrator now. They believe he lives on Kingsland Avenue. John stated that the victim jumped out of the car. He stated that 3 community boards the 3 precincts were involved

The Board went into Executive Session at 8:50 PM and returned to business at 9:15PM.

There being no further business before the Board the meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



**Ruth Burko,
Secretary**

ATTENDANCE AT BOARD MEETING APRIL 23, 2009 IN LUBIN HALL

PRESENT

Joseph Bacote	(0)	Hazel Miura	(3)
Joe Bombace	(0)	Dr. Mahendra Patel	(1)
Ruth Burko	(4)	Robert Potter	(1)
Michael Carriere	(3)	Vincent Prezioso	(0)
Al D'Angelo	(1)	Joseph Reda	(2)
Jessica Dewberry	(0)	Blanche Comras Rifkin	(2)
Pat Dolan	(2)	Joanne Rubino	(0)
Harain Figueroa	(0)	Martin Sacewicz	(0)
Rabbi Moshe Fuchs	(1)	Oral Selkridge	(3)
Kenneth Gelnick	(3)	Vincent Taddeo	(2)
Denise Giocondo	(2)	Joseph Thompson	(0)
David Leavitt	(1)	Joseph Thurston	(0)
Annette Marchitello	(2)	Eugene Tutora	(0)
Silvio Mazzella	(1)	Sandra Unger	(2)
Joseph McManus	(2)	Anthony Vitaliano	(0)

ABSENT

Junior Campbell	(3)	Mary Paliotta	(3)
Joseph Carfora	(4)	Pat Quaranta	(2)
Dominic Castore	(4)	Eliezer Rodriguez	(4)
Rosemary Durso	(3)	Irene Rukaj	(3)
Estella Foley	(5)	Marisa Totino	(4)
Elizabeth Nazario	(4)	Janice Walcott	(2)
Diane Norris	(2)	Linda White	(3)

EX OFFICIO BOARD MEMBERS

Jeremy Warneke – Representing Councilman James Vacca

OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mark Gorecezyr – Representing Senator Jeffrey Klein

Charisse Suarez – Representing Assemblywoman Naomi Rivera

STAFF, BOROUGH PRESEIDENT AND AGENCY OFFICIALS

John A. Fratta, District Manager – Community Board 11

Harriet Lasky, Secretary – Community Board 11

Susan Nolan, Community Coordinator – Community Board 11

Andy Toledo – Representing Acting Borough President Earl Brown

GUESTS

Mike Heller – Albert Einstein College of Medicine

Manuel Lagares – Department of City Planning



Six Myths of Mayoral Control

Since 2003, Mayoral Control of New York City public schools has been a failed experiment. And yet, the mayor and chancellor continue to proclaim the following myths:

1. Student achievement and graduation rates have improved under mayoral control.

False. National exams which provide the most reliable measures show no progress in 4th and 8th grade reading or 8th grade math since 2003, and no closing of the achievement gap in any subject or any grade. Yet obsessive testing and test preparation consumes more and more class time, sacrificing aspects of the curriculum, such as arts and sciences, which foster a higher level of creative and critical thinking. When calculated by traditional methods, high school dropout rates continue to hover around 50%; and each year, more students are “discharged” or “pushed out” of our schools without being counted as dropouts. Indeed, students requiring special education or language instruction, who can wreak havoc on a school’s standardized test scores, are marginalized. At the same time, the mayor chooses to artificially inflate graduation rates by counting GEDs as graduates and employing dubious practices such as “credit recovery,” in which students who would otherwise fail are allowed to pass by attending a single weekend session.

2. Mayoral control has eliminated waste and corruption and “put children first.”

False. Since 2005 billions of state dollars won through a class-action lawsuit have been allocated for city schools to correct generations of educational deficiencies. Rather than follow mandates of the State Legislature and judiciary to reduce class size, Mayor Bloomberg has diverted hundreds of millions of dollars to exorbitant and dubious experiments, including (1) excessive student testing; (2) paying principals, teachers and students “bonuses” for high test scores (rather than actual teaching and learning), (3) no-bid contracts (4) faulty school

accountability systems, and (5) the divisive proliferation of charter schools, with no community input. Most egregiously, millions are being spent on public relations and political propaganda that could be better used in the classroom.

3. The mayor is accountable. **False.** Since seizing control in 2002, Mayor Bloomberg has refused to comply with numerous state and city laws or cooperate with any independent authorities: neither the State Legislature nor the City Council; not the Independent Budget Office or the Public Advocate; not the City or State Comptrollers.

After seven years of unchecked authority, there has been no substantive independent auditing or verification of the Department of Education’s spending practices or claims of higher student achievement. Without independent evaluations, no one can be sure of the value of or deficiencies in our children’s education.

4. Parent input matters under mayoral control. **False.** Chancellor Klein has stripped the Community Education Councils (formerly Community District School Boards) by ignoring their legally mandated roles to be consulted when schools are closed or opened in their districts. School Leadership Teams (made up of parents and staff at the school level) no longer have any meaningful input in or oversight of the selection of their school’s principals or budgets. While each school is assigned one Parent Coordinator (usually overworked and underpaid), fearing reprisals, many are frequently torn between adhering to bureaucratic dictates and using their professional judgment. Allowing parents to call 311 to launch complaints is simply not enough.

5. Allowing mayoral control to expire will return anarchy, cronyism and/or political corruption to the system.

Ridiculous. Community school boards lost the power to hire school staff years before mayoral control was instituted. Furthermore, NYC’s school districts have always fostered extraordinarily successful schools and disturbing failures with most falling somewhere in between. While some districts and schools were deeply flawed, many were not. Despite the mayor’s best efforts to supplant all district authorities under an alienating one-size fits all corporate bureaucracy, this continues to be the case.

Meanwhile, conflicts of interest have proliferated under this administration. The centralized Department of Education wastes hundreds of millions of dollars on suspicious experiments and no-bid contracts. Questionable decision-making is hidden behind a veil of corporate secrecy without transparent public auditing and accountability or independent checks and balances.

6. The mayor has control. **True.** And seven years of dictatorial control is enough. Only two out of the twenty top officials at the Department of Education are long-time educators. The rest are attorneys, consultants, and former corporate executives. Schools are not corporations; children are not widgets. Mayoral control should be rescinded and replaced with a democratic process that requires the mayor to share responsibility for policymaking with independent checks and balances, and real engagement with parents and school communities. A more inclusive process will foster educational policies based on rational judgment, experience, and expertise, rather than political soundbites, postures, and tactics.

In these perilous times of arrogant and unchecked authority, the mayor and chancellor manifest a disturbingly Wall Street mentality of “trust us, we know what we’re doing.” Alas, we can no longer afford the luxury of blind trust. President Obama has declared a sound education a civic responsibility. When our schools fail to provide every student with access to educational excellence, we undermine our nation’s future. Mayoral Control expires June 30th; the State Legislature should rescind and replace it with a truly accountable and democratic system. Yes, we *can* do better.