

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24,
2009 IN LUBIN HALL**

**I. Public Hearing on the Fiscal Year 2011 Budget
Priorities**

**No one spoke during the top allotted for speakers.
A Motion was made by Silvio Mazzella Seconded by
Bob Potter – That the public hearing be closed. **PASSED**
with 1 abstention by Mary Paliotta**

II. Gallery Session

a. Will Stewart – Mosholu Montefiore

Mr. Stewart asked for a letter of support for the program that he runs at Eastchester Gardens Community Center. He stated that the program is for 6- adult. Mr. Stewart stated that they provide an after school program, dances, sports, computer classes, job search etc. He stated that the program is free. Mr. Stewart stated that Mosholu Montefiore has been running this program at Eastchester Gardens since March. He stated that these are programs that the community wants. Mr. Stewart invited everyone to visit the center and see the programs that run from 3:30 – 10 PM at 3016 Yates Avenue.

b. William Foster – N.I.D.C.

Mr. Foster stated that NIDC has been working in Community Board 11 since 1982 providing housing services, tenant landlord services, and a program at P.S. 96. We also have run after school programs for K-5 grade where we have 350 students enrolled. Mr. Foster said that we also run an At Large Job at Columbus High School. We also help

students who are possible drops outs. We work with the 49th Precinct and on National Night Out. Also English as a second language classes. We also help with mortgagee foreclosures. Mr. Foster asked for a letter of support for the program at Eastchester Gardens.

c. Ruben Torres

Mr. Torres stated that he lives in the Parkside Houses Development. He stated that management no longer buys cleaning supplies. Mr. Torres stated that the elevators are not cleaned. He stated that he has to clean the floor in front of his apartment. He also spoke about the bubbling he is experiencing in his ceiling.

Joe Thompson stated that he has received reports from tenants that they have seen mice. He stated that the Board will call management and see that corrective measures are taken.

d. Pat Flanagan

Mr. Flanagan stated that he is on the Neighborhood Advisory Board which has a program that comes under CDYDC. He wanted to know why he never heard of the 2 groups that came here tonight.

John explained that there are several programs in our community that are funded by CDYDC.

e. Helen Brandt

Ms. Brandt spoke about the large number of trees on Pelham Parkway that are going to be removed when the Pelham Parkway reconstruction project begins. She asked if the traffic accidents that occurred were actually due to the trees or the drivers. She also spoke about the guard rail that is going to be installed.

f. Rev. Que English

Rev. English stated that she was here tonight with the U.S. Army to talk about a free program that is being offered at the Bronx Christian Fellowship Church at 1015 E. Gun Hill Road. She stated that it is a 12 week program on Sundays beginning October 4th at 12:30 PM. Rev. English stated that the program will include fitness, leadership and mentorship for youth in grades 6-12. A group of army members gave a demonstration on the fitness program. Rev. English stated that at the end of the program there will be a graduation. For information call 718 231-1033. Rev. English distributed flyers

g. Keith Ramsey

Keith reported that his group won the elections at

Eastchester Gardens. He stated that he was here tonight to ask for a letter of support for Lehman College to run a program at the center.

Keith stated that he had budget items for fiscal year 2011. They include new playground equipment, repairs to the sidewalk, more outside lighting and revamping of the intercom system.

John asked Keith to submit his list of budget requests to the Board.

Bob Potter asked that when they renovate the lights they see to it that they are not on 24 hours a day.

III. Minutes

John explained that we had a glitch with the new computers and the minutes were not available. He stated that they will be sent out next month.

IV. Chairman's Report – Dominic Castore

Dom reported that this has been a hard working summer for John and the staff. He stated that he and John went to a great deal of meetings. Dom reported that the police are making a lot of arrests in the Van Nest area.

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

John reported that he and Dom met with the residents of the Van Nest community about their major complaints. He stated that this was the first time they came to us. John reported that arrests have been made in Van Nest and Pelham Parkway. John reported that they are forming a block association. He stated that at their next meeting he has asked Hazel Miura to come and help them organize. John reported that the residents have installed cameras to help abet the crime. John told PO Sammy Perez to tell the officers at the 49th Precinct what a great job they are doing.

Pelham Parkway reconstruction – John reported that we are now scheduled to see the shovel go into the ground by the summer. He stated that trees have to be removed. 52 because of the project, and 30 more that the Parks Department has asked they be removed because of their bad condition. John said that the trees will be replaced, but not so close to the roadway. John reported that part of the delay is with the art commission. John stated that first they will

do the main road beginning with the north side and then the south side. After that is completed they will do the service road. John stated that the project will take 4 years. John reported that DOT is meeting with the people on Tomlinson Avenue on Tuesday to explain why the street is being reversed. He stated that they are putting in speed reducers.

911 Call enter – John reported that the building has been scaled down 250 feet from 375 feet. He stated that it will be a nice looking building. John reported that the company who is building this built the Einstein Research building. John stated that they are due to begin construction in the fall.

Opening Ramp to the Bronx River Parkway – John stated that Parks still refuses to allow this. He stated that Councilman Vacca received a letter from Commissioner Benepe stating Commissioner Aponte would call us. John stated that he spoke to Commissioner Aponte on Tuesday and he said he would reach out to us.

Van Nest Playground – John stated that the playground needs to be enlarged and upgraded. Unfortunately there is not enough funding in the budget. He stated that he is pushing for more money from our elected officials. John stated that he informed Commission Aponte that this playground was a priority of the Board.

Marcy asked about the new housing that was proposed near the stables. John stated that the Board did not give her a letter of support.

John reported that with the help of Senator Klein Deja Vu was fined \$3,000. He stated that we tried to have their license revoked. John stated that they are closing at 2 AM. He stated that we are staying on top of them and getting Sanitation to issue tickets.

John reported that there are 1 and 2 bedroom apartments available on Bronxdale and Holland Avenue. He stated that the rents have been reduced due to the economy. John stated that there are 140 units, and that the owner is working with the Board.

Mary spoke about the Walgreen's on Eastchester Road that just opened. She reported that at their stores in New Rochelle and at their Westchester Square store you can get your ink cartridges refilled at \$10 for black. She stated that you would have to call for the price of color refills.

VI. Treasurer's Report – Silvio Mazzella

Silvio reported that the 2 treasurer's reports were distributed. He thanked Harriet for putting them together. If anyone has questions they can see me or Harriet.

Silvio reported that he was disappointed in the turn out at the Budget Consultations. He stated that we met with several agencies to get their budget needs.

VII. Borough President's Report – Andy Toledo

Andy reported that there will be a public hearing on the renewal of Cablevision's franchise at the Bronx County Court House on Thursday. Andy stated that the Borough President wants to hear from the community.

Andy reported that with the help of the Manhattan Borough President and the Bronx DA's office a female running a Section 8 scam was apprehended. He stated that if anyone is in need of an apartment to be careful.

Andy reported that the US Postal Service plans to close the Van Nest Branch office. He stated that Congressmen Crowley and Engel are demanding that this decision be reversed. Andy reported that 7 post offices are planned to be closed. He also reported that Borough President Diaz gave testimony on this yesterday.

Andy reported that the Borough President sent a letter to BSA rejecting the proposed medical facility on Astor Avenue.

Joe McManus read and apology to David Leavitt and Joe Thompson for his actions at last month's meeting.

VIII. Committee Reports

A. Executive Committee – John A. Fratta

1. Protocol for Public Hearings

John stated that the Chair of the Committee holding the public hearing should speak first and then introduce the applicant. The applicant is allowed to make a presentation and then the committee can raise questions. Next the general public may speak. John stated that if a Board member voices their opinion before the applicant has a chance to make their presentation we are not giving the applicant a fair chance to be heard. A vote is then taken after everyone has left.

Joe McManus stated that on the Astor Avenue hearing the elected officials sent letters against the site. He stated that then the public spoke. Joe stated that there were not enough Committee members present to take a vote.

Joe Thompson stated that he felt that we should listen to the public before the Board speaks.

Joe Bombace reported that yesterday he had attended a public hearing on the Van Nest Post office. He stated that first the elected officials spoke, then other dignitaries, appointed officials, panel 1, then panel 2. Then at 3:30 the public had a chance to speak.

A great deal of discussion took place on in what order to let the speakers go.

Dom stated that the public should go first and then the elected officials.

John reported that at all public hearings he has attended the elected officials speak first. Then the applicant speaks and then the public.

A Motion was made by Joe Bombace, Seconded by Marcy Gross – That public hearing protocol will begin with the public first and then the elected officials.

Joe Thompson amended this to that the applicant speaks first and then the committee can ask questions. Joe Bombace accepted the amendment.

Mary Paliotta's public hearing protocol is:

- 1. Applicant makes statement/presentation**
- 2. Community Board members asks questions**
- 3. Elected officials speak**
- 4. Public speaks**
- 5. Committee votes**

This was the final protocol that accepted.

A Motion was made by Mary Paliotta, Seconded by Joe Reda – That Community Board 11 accept this protocol. PASSED with 2 opposed by Joe Bombace and Bob Potter.

B. Allerton – Joanne Rubino

Joanne reported that there was no meeting this month. She stated that the next meeting will be on October 1st at 7 PM.

C. Bronx Park East/Olinville – Joe Thompson

Liquor Licenses

- 1. WEASA Enterprises, Inc. d/b/a Café Lou's – 3060 Boston**
- 2. Mirador Corp. – 2712 White Plains Road**
- 3. EJ Primos Restaurant – 698 Allerton Avenue**

A Motion was made by Joe Thompson, Seconded by Bob Potter – That Community Board 11 send a letter to the SLA stating that we have no objection to the issuing of these license renewals. PASSED

Joe stated that both Mosholu Montefiore and N.I.D.C. have come to the Board for a letter of support for their youth program to run at Eastchester Gardens. He stated that Mosholu Montefiore came in at the last minute and they did a very good job. Joe stated that he has a history with N.I.D.C. and they run very good programs.

A Motion was made by Joe Thompson, Seconded by Joanne Rubino – That Community Board 11 send a letter of support to CDYD for Mosholu Montefiore and N.I.D.C. PASSED with 4 abstentions for cause from Joe Thompson, Hazel Miura, Al D'Angelo and Silvio Mazzella.

D. Indian Village/Westchester Heights – Michael Carriere

Mike reported that the Minutes had been submitted.

Liquor License

- 1. Castauck d/b/a Gleason's – 2040 Eastchester Road**

A Motion was made by Mike Carriere, Seconded by Bob Potter – Passed with 1 opposed from Sal Conforto.

Mike reported that the Committee is going out to do graffiti removal with the help of the police. He thanked P.O. Sammy Perez, Victor DiPierro and Captain Greeley for their help. He welcomed Joe Reda back.

E. Morris Park/Van Nest – Al D'Angelo

Street Closing Application

1. Application from Roxane Rivera to close Victor Street between Morris Park and Van Nest Avenues on Number 8th from 11 AM to 7 PM.

A Motion was made by Al D'Angelo, Seconded by Joe Bombace – That Community Board 11 send a letter to SAPO to reject this application. PASSED

2. Liquor License

a. J and M Corp. d/b/a Bobbie's Café and Lounge – 1808 Hone Avenue

Discussion took place on this request. It was stated that they presently have a beer and wine license which does not expire until 2010 and they are asking for a full liquor license. It was stated that at the Committee meeting the owner agreed to withdraw the new request and work off their present license until it expires.

A Motion was made by Al D'Angelo, Seconded by Joe Bombace – That a letter to the SLA be sent stating that the owners have agreed to work off the present license until it expires. PASSED

3. Van Nest Post Office

A Motion was made by Al D'Angelo, Seconded by Silvio Mazzella – That Community Board 11 send a letter to the United States Post Master requesting that this office be kept open. PASSED

Dr. Patel asked for a meeting with the Bronx Post Mistress.

John reported that he, Joe Bombace, Gene Tutora, Tony Vitaliano, Bob Potter and Dom Castore. He stated that at this meeting along with the Post Master was the Customer Service Manager. John stated that they discussed the graffiti at the post offices. He stated that they will get back to us on closing the Van Nest office.

Bob stated that this was a very good meeting.

John stated that the Post Master asked us to give her until October 1st for a decision and to address our other issues.

Sal stated that this area needs a bank. He stated that without a bank the post office is necessary to enable residents to pay bills through money orders.

Al asked that Greg Kisloff and Ron Kunick be removed from the Committee due to their not attending any meetings. Dom said that it will be done.

F. Pelham Gardens – Anthony Vitaliano

Tony stated that there were no issues that required Board action at this time.

G. Youth and Education – Joe Cafora

Joe stated that the Committee had not met this month. He stated that the next meeting is scheduled for October 8th.

Joe reported that there is going to be a senior art show. He stated that the art works of residents in nursing homes will be judged by the Bronx Council and the Arts and an Ad Hoc Committee of the Board. Anyone interested in serving on this Committee should contact John. Joe said that there will be a breakfast to show case the winners and they can sell their works.

Joe McManus announced that Tuesday was Primary Day for Comptroller and Public Advocate.

Bernadette spoke about beer sales after hour's at Bodegas.

John said that he would speak with Senator Klein.

Al asked if a store moves its location does their license go with them.

John stated that they need a new license.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

**Ruth Burko,
Secretary**

H. Land Use – Joseph McManus

Joe reported that the Minutes had been submitted. Joe reported that read John’s testimony at the BSA hearing on the Astor Avenue site. He stated that BSA was only concerned about parking. Joe stated that no decision will be made until November 10th.

1. BSA 230-09BZ - Request by Peter Hirshman for a special permit for required minimum front yards for a corner property at 1700 White Plains Road.

**A Motion was made by Joe McManus, Seconded by Mary Paliotta
– That Community Board 11 send a letter to the BSA stating that we have no objection to the issuing of this special permit. Passed with 3 opposed from Joe Bombace, Marcy Gross and Bernadette Ferrara and abstention for cause from Oral Selkridge and Frano Zagreda.**

IX. Old Business

Silvio commended P.O. Perez for his professionalism.

X. New Business

Bob Potter announced that Mr. Steward can be reached at 718 231-5418 or on his cell at 917 418-7066.

Joe reported that 30 Board members were absent from the Land Use public hearing. He also reported that the attendance had been poor at his Committee meeting.

John stated that this goes on their record and is submitted to the Borough President.

John reported that at the October Executive Committee meeting the new committee structure will be discussed.

Silvio reported that the 49th Precinct Council will be meeting on September 25th at the Pine Tavern. He also reported that the Bronx Columbus Day Dinner will be held on October 2nd. The Parade will take place on October 11th beginning at 12 Noon.

Joe Thompson announced that Senator Klein will be the guest speaker at the 49th Precinct Council meeting. He stated that Community Board 11 never marched in the parade. Joe stated that he has a Community Board 11 banner that we can march with. Anyone who wants to march in the parade should notify the Board office.

ATTENDANCE AT NEW COMMITTEE MEETING SEPTEMBER 2009-JUNE 2010

BRONX PARK EAST/OLINVILLE

	9/8
Joseph Thompson	P
Hazel Miura	P
Junior Campbell	P
Estella Foley	P
Elizabeth Nazario	P
Robert Potter	P
Irene Rukaj	A
Martin Sacewicz	P
Janice Walcott	A

ALLERTON

Rabbi Moshe Fuchs
Joanne Rubino
Jessica Dewberry
Kenneth Gelnick
Joseph McManus
Mary Paliotta
Oral Selkridge
Sandra Unger

PELHAM GARDENS

	9/15
Joseph Thurston	P
Anthony Vitaliano	P
Joseph Bacote	E
Ruth Burko	P
Harain Figueroa	E
Dr. Mahendra Patel	P
Vincent Prezioso	P
Vincent Taddeo	E
Eugene Tutora	P
Frano Zagreda	P

MORRIS PARK/VAN NEST/PELHAM PARKWAY

	9/23	10/6
Al D'Angelo	P	P
Linda White	S	A
Richard Angeletti	W	P
Joe Bombace	P	A
Sal Conforto	p	A
Bernadette Ferrara	p	P
Mary Gross	A	P
David Leavitt	P	P
Silvio Mazzella	P	P
Diane Norris	P	E
Pat Quaranta	A	A
Blanche Rifkin	A	E

INDIAN VILLAGE/WESTCHESTER HEIGHTS

	9/21	10/5
Michael Carriere	P	P
Dr. Mahendra Patel	P	P
Pat Dolan	A	A
Rosemary Durso	P	A
Denise Giocondo	P	P
Annette Marchitello	P	A
Joseph Reda	A	P
Eliezer Rodriguez	P	A

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET PRIORITIES

	10/19
Silvio Mazzella	P
Harain Figueroa	E
Jessica Dewberry	E
Mary Paliotta	E

LAND USE

	9/17
Joseph McManus	P
Eugene Tutora	A
Harain Figueroa	E
Kenneth Gelnick	A
Vincent Prezioso	E
Oral Selkridge	A
Vincent Taddeo	A
Eugene Tutora	P

EDUCATION/YOUTH

10/8

Joseph Carfora	A
Diane Norris	P
Ruth Burko	P
Denise Giocondo	P
Annette Marchitello	A
Elizabeth Narario	A
Bob Potter	A
Blanche Rifkin	P
Eliezer Rodriguez	A
Sandra Unger	P
Linda White	A

EXECUTIVE

10/14

Vincent Prezioso	P
Joseph Thompson	A
Silvio Mazzella	A
Ruth Burko	A
Albert D'Angelo	A
Joseph Carfora	A
Michael Carriere	A
Rabbi Moshe Fuchs	A
Hazel Miura	A
Joseph McManus	P
Diane Norris	P
Dr. Mahendra Patel	A
Joanne Rubino	P
Joseph Thurston	P
Eugene Tutora	A
Anthony Vitaliano	P
Linda White	A