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Dominic Castore
Chairman

Ruben Diaz, Jr.
Borough President

John A. Fratta
District Manager

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 22, 2009 IN LUBIN HALL

COMMITTEES

Allerton

Bronx Park
 East/Olinville

Community
 Development and Budget
 Priorities

Education/Youth

Indian
 Village/Westchester Hgts

Land Use

Morris Park/Van Nest/
 Pelham Parkway

Pelham Gardens

I. Guest Speaker – Luis Daniel Caridad, Neighborhood Economic Development Advocacy Project (NEDAP)

Mr. Caridad discussed the Economic Development of New York City Communities. He also spoke about the foreclosure crisis in the City and passed around a 2008 map of foreclosure patterns in Community Board 11. Last year, there were over 14,000 foreclosures throughout the City.

He stressed that homeowners should know about

- A) President Obama’s Home Affordability Plan to make mortgages affordable. This program provides incentives for lenders to work with homeowners. To see if you qualify call 311.
- B) As of December 2008 – NYS Law requires lenders to meet and discuss loans that are non-traditional with homeowners
- C) Watch out for scams. There are many scams out there preying on homeowners that are in or near default. He stressed that homeowners have to fully check out any company or individual that claims they can assist them in lowering their mortgage.

Mr. Caridad can be reached (212) 680-5100 or go on their website at www.nedap.org.

II. Gallery Session

- a. Brian Adams – questioned about various vacant properties Williamsbridge Road and Morris Park Avenue, Boston Road. And Wallace Avenue and White Plains Road and Lydig Avenue.
- b. Maria Santolano – complained about the store that sells live animals for consumption. They are right next to the Daycare Center. The smells are really bad. John mentioned that they were cited once and that we will continue having them monitored by enforcement personnel.

III. Minutes

A motion made by Vincent Prezioso, seconded by Joseph Thompson that the minutes be accepted. PASSED

IV. Chairman's Report – Dominic Castore

Dom reported that he met with the Residents of Tomlinson Avenue and the Department of Transportation. Attending this meeting with Dom was Joseph Thompson and Eugene Tutora. Once again, the residents were explained why it was important to reverse Tomlinson Avenue going southbound, the way it used to be.

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

John reported that Harriet was in a car accident and will be out for a while. She is doing well but was banged up.

John reported that we are dealing with a lot of police issues in the district, particularly drugs and gangs. He praised Captain Greeley and Lt. Russo for responding so well to these issues.

John reported on Van Nest and what a great job the police are doing to clean up that area of drugs. All the main dealers, except one, have been arrested. So we are sending a strong message to them. John thanked the residents of the community for coming together to take back their neighborhood.

John reported on Déjà Vu. Their liquor license has been revoked by the SLA. However, they have gone to court and applied for relief. The judge refused to lift the revocation and the license stands revoked. John Fratta, Joe Thompson and Joe Bombace went to this hearing from Community Board 11.

John reported on the Pelham Parkway project. The Art Commission has agreed on the type of guardrails that will be used on the parkway. It will require approximately 50 trees to be removed and the Parks Department requested that an additional 30+ trees be removed for safety reasons. The project is scheduled to begin in late spring or early summer.

John reported on Tomlinson Avenue that DOT met with representatives on the block and is scheduled to reverse the street in early November. A speed reducer will be installed immediately following the reversal of the street.

Bernadette Ferrara questioned about the fence in Van Nest Park. John responded that we are trying to have money placed in the budget of Parks for a better fence and that the renovation and expansion of the park is a major priority of the Board.

Robert Potter complained that he called the 49th Pct. And the phone kept on ringing with no one picking up. He mentioned that after a while the ringing went to a busy signal. John suggested that Bob try a different number in the precinct next time that happens.

VI. Treasurer's Report – Silvio Mazzella

Silvio reported that the two treasurer's reports have been distributed. If there are any questions give Harriet a call.

VII. Borough President's Report – Andy Toledo

Andy reported that the Tour of da Bronx has been cancelled for this year. They are working on having it next year. He asked if there were any questions or concerns.

VIII. Committee Reports

A. Executive Committee – Vincent Prezioso

Vinny reminded all committee chairs to attend the next Executive Board meeting. We will be discussing the new geographic format of the committees and will make a decision as to whether or not we want to keep it in effect. The meeting will be Monday, November 9th at 7:00 PM.

B. Allerton Committee – Rabbi Moshe Fuchs/Joanne Rubino

Rabbi Fuchs reported that there was no meeting this month and he had nothing to report.

C. Bronx Park East/Olinville Committee – Joseph Thompson/Hazel Miura

Joe reported that the minutes have been distributed and there were no motions this month.

D. Indian Village/Westchester Heights – Michael Carrieri/Dr. Patel

We have nothing to report. No motions this month.

E. Morris Park/Van nest/Pelham Pky Committee – Al D'Angelo/Linda White

1) Al reported that there was a request from Richard Vitacco to co-name Van Nest Avenue between Melville Street and Van Buren Street as Carl Paul Jennewein Place. **Motion made by Al D'Angelo, seconded by Silvio Mazzella to reject the street co-naming of Van Nest Avenue from Melville Street to Van Buren Street.** A great deal of discussion took place. **A motion was made by Bernadette Ferrara, seconded by Janice Walcott to table the motion on the floor.** Passed with three in opposition.

2) Application by James Paloumbis of Park Billiards 2020 White Plains Road for a newel of their liquor license. **Al D'Angelo moved seconded by Joseph Thompson that we approve the liquor license request for Hellenic Efforts Corp. d/b/a Park Billiards at 2020 White Plains Road.** PASSED

3) Barbeques in public parks. **A motion was made by Al D'Angelo seconded by Marcy Gross that the Community Board send a letter to the Parks Department and the 49th Precinct request strict enforcement of the laws and regulations that prohibit barbeques and open fires in public parks in Community Board 11. PASSED**

F. Pelham Gardens Committee – Joseph Thurston/Anthony Vitaliano

1) Application from David Bond of Community Action for Human Services, Inc. to establish a community residence for 6 mentally retarded and developmentally disabled adults at 2409 Lodovick Avenue. A public hearing was held on October 20, 2009 at Kings Harbor at 1000 East Gunhill Road. A great deal of discussion took place regarding the placement to a group home at this location and about the saturation of groups homes in this community. **Motion made by Joseph Thurston, seconded by Anthony Vitaliano that we oppose the establishment of a group home at 2409 Lodovick Avenue** Motion passed 6 opposed and 2 abstentions.

G. Youth and Education – Diane Norris/Joseph Cafora

Diane reported that there will be a meeting conducted by CEC 11 regarding the Bronxdale School. The meeting will take place at PS 83 on October 26, 2009 from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM.

H. Land Use – Joseph McManus/Eugene Tutora

Joe reported that Walgreen's on Williamsbridge Road is progressing.

He also reported that the BSA application that we dealt with last month had a hearing before the Board of Standards and Appeals. At that hearing the commissioners held the application over for a better traffic plan. The next hearing will be on November 10, 2009. Joe reported that the residents thanked Dom, John and the Board for their support.

Bernadette Ferrara asked about the status of 1700 White Plains Road. Joe responded that we approved the application and that it is now up to the owner to proceed with the project.

I. Community Development and Budget Priorities – Silvio Mazzella

Silvio thanked John Fratta, Dom Castore and Vinny Prezioso for attending the Budget meeting. Silvio presented the capital and expense budget priorities of Community Board 11 for FY 2011. **A motion was made by Silvio Mazzella seconded by Vincent Prezioso that we submit our capital and expense budget priorities for FY 2011 PASSED**

J. Old Business

Bob Potter reminded the Board that during the discussion of an item a board member should only speak once and say what you want to say. There should be no debate at the board meetings by board members. That should take place at the committee meetings.

Joe Bombace asked about the reversal of the flow of traffic on Hone Avenue between Pelham Parkway and the Esplanade. Joe reported that it was rejected by Department of Transportation.

Joe McManus reported that the minutes reflect on page 6 that he voted yes, he voted no.

Bernadette Ferrara asked about the status of Van Nest Park. John reported that we have listed this as a number one priority of the Board.

K. New business

Bernadette Ferrara questioned about the closing of Van Nest Post Office. It was explained that we are looking into this issue. Joe McManus said that the Post Office is looking into revenue vs. losses.

Bernadette Ferrara raised the issue of the New Graffiti Law that was signed into law by the Mayor. She was concerned that the new law gives the landlord the ability to leave the graffiti on his property if he chooses. John explained that under the old law before the City can go on the property to remove graffiti they needed consent from the owner. Under the new law, if the landlord wants to leave the graffiti on his premise he has 30 days to notify the City. If not the City can automatically go and remove it.

Gene Tutora asked a question about the voting procedures of committee. He wanted to know if the committee had to vote on items with the public present. John Fratta responded that under to “open meetings” law, the public has the right and the committee the obligation to conduct that vote with the public present.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM

Respectfully submitted,



Ruth Burko,
Secretary

ATTENDANCE AT MEETING OF OCTOBER 22, 2009 IN LUBIN HALL
(INCLUDES ABSENCES FROM PUBLIC HEARING)

PRESENT

| | | | |
|--------------------|-----|---------------------|-----|
| Richard Angeletti | (0) | Annette Marchitello | (2) |
| Joseph Bacote | (0) | Silvio Mazzella | (1) |
| Joe Bombace | (0) | Joseph McManus | (0) |
| Ruth Burko | (1) | Diane Norris | (1) |
| Junior Campbell | (1) | Dr. Mahendra Patel | (0) |
| Dominic Castore | (1) | Robert Potter | (0) |
| Sal Conforto | (1) | Vincent Prezioso | (2) |
| Al D'Angelo | (1) | Pat Quaranta | (1) |
| Pat Dolan | (1) | Blanche Rifkin | (1) |
| Rosemary Durso | (1) | Joanne Rubino | (0) |
| Bernadette Ferrara | (0) | Martin Sacewicz | (0) |
| Harain Figueroa | (0) | Oral Selkridge | (1) |
| Estella Foley | (2) | Joseph Thompson | (0) |
| Rabbi Moshe Fuchs | (1) | Joseph Thurston | (2) |
| Kenneth Gelnick | (1) | Eugene Tutora | (0) |
| Marcy Gross | (1) | Anthony Vitaliano | (1) |
| David Leavitt | (0) | Janice Walcott | (0) |

ABSENT

| | | | |
|-------------------|-----|-------------------|-----|
| Joe Carfora | (1) | Eliezer Rodriguez | (2) |
| Michael Carriere | (1) | Irene Rukaj | (2) |
| Jessica Dewberry | (2) | Vincent Taddeo | (1) |
| Elizabeth Nazario | (2) | Sandra Unger | (2) |
| Mary Paliotta | (2) | Linda White | (3) |
| Joseph Reda | (2) | Frano Zagreda | (1) |

STAFF, BOROUGH PRESIDENT AND AGENCY OFFICIALS

John A. Fratta, District Manager – Community Board 11
Susan Nolan, Community Coordinator – Community Board 11
Andy Toledo – Representing Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.