



COMMUNITY BOARD #11, BRONX  
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 COMMUNITY BOARD WEBSITE  
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**Dominic Castore**  
**Chairman**

**Ruben Diaz, Jr.**  
**Borough President**

**John A. Fratta**  
**District Manager**

**COMMITTEES**

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

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17,**  
**2009 IN CALVARY HOSPITAL**

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

**I. Disbursement of Yankee and McDonald's Leader Awards**

**Aurelia Greene, representing Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. gave out the checks and a Community Service Award certificate to the students for making the Bronx a better place to live in.**

**Yankee Awards went to: Michael Zagreda, Melissa Balise, Grace Fragatale, Nicholas Sette and Lauren Murphy. The McDonald Award went to Despina Miller.**

**Ms. Green wished all the students the best in the future. She also wished all the Board members a wonderful safe Christmas.**

**II. Gallery Session**  
**a. Brian Adams**

**Mr. Adams reported that the street sign was missing on the south east corner of Cruger and Pelham Parkway South. He also spoke about the drastic cuts by the MTA to reduce routes, cut out free student METRO card and eliminate service on some lines.**

**III. Elected Officials**

**Vinny introduced Jeremy Frittola representing Councilman James Vacca and John Doyle, representing Senator Jeffrey Klein.**

**Mr. Doyle spoke about Senators efforts to get a bank to come into the Van Nest area. He stated that a round table meeting was held on December fourteenth which John, Joe Bombace and Bernadette Ferrara attended. Mr. Doyle reported that one of the banks has committed to opening in the Van Nest area.**

**Vinny introduced Mike Warneke from Senator Jeffrey Klein's office. Mike reported that Senator Klein brought Governor Patterson to the Morris Park Association to sign the Foreclosure Bill. Mike thanked the Association for their hospitality.**

**IV. Minutes**

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

**V. Chairman's Report – John Fratta**

**John reported that Dom was at a meeting in Community Board #9.**

**VI. District Manager's Report – John A. Fratta**

**John reported that the Van Nest community has a new association the Van Nest Neighborhood Alliance. He stated that they will meet the first Wednesday of the month at St. Dominic's Church. John stated that they are organizing events to better the community. John stated that we need groups to take control of their neighborhoods. John commended Joe Bombace, Bernadette Ferrara and Hazel Miura for working hard to make this happen.**

**Van Nest Park – John reported that there was a public hearing on Tuesday on enlarging and renovating the park. He stated that before we renovate the park we wanted to make sure the community wanted it. John stated that 50 people show up and there were 17 speakers. He stated that the renovation of the park will take time.**

**John complimented Senator Klein for setting up the meeting with 12 banks and the banking commission. He stated that we are working with viable merchants associations, the Morris Park Association and the Van Nest Association.**

**John reported on the drastic budget cuts. He stated that we will take a cut of \$10,000 by next month. There will then be a \$17,850 cut and then \$10,000 more in July 2010. This will bring our budget down**

**from 206,895 bringing us to \$160,437. John stated that Councilman Vacca has always taken the lead with the City Council. He stated that Councilman Vacca was continuing to lobby for restoring these cuts to the community boards. John stated that Councilman Vacca has saved us three times, and we hope he can help us again. John reported that last year we were able to take \$8,500 of our expenses and us our friends of account to pay them. John stated that before the Board is an application for a street fair. He stated that the Mayor's office will reject it as there is a moratorium on street fairs. He stated that we will fight this. John reported that he asked Tommy's Midway who handles our carnival to put in an application for Bronx Park East. He stated that this will help the Friends of Account. John stated that he was urging our elected officials to help us.**

**Bobby Ruggiero, President of the Van Nest Merchants Association spoke. He stated that March 2009 was the second anniversary of when the Morris Park Alliance began. He spoke about the new businesses that have opened; Flat Line a Skate Board store and the Chocolate Factory that moved from the Morris Park strip. He stated that the chocolate factory's revenue doubled since they moved here. Bobby reported that Conte's Bakery has increased their income as well as the Van Nest Hardware. Bobby reported that Mama Maria's has a new owner and Mambo Italiano is opening. Bobby reported that they are part of the Bronx Business Coalition which represents 3,000 merchants. He stated that anyone needing more information can contact him at 718 828-1800.**

**Jessica Dewberry stated that she works with City Planning and presents B.I.D.s to the mayor. She stated that she will give any help she can.**

#### **VI. Treasurer's Report – Silvio Mazzella**

**Silvio reported that the Friends of and Community Board 11 treasurer's reports had been distributed. He stated that report 1 shows the current budget with a cut of \$9,856. He reported that the 2011 reports shows a cut of \$46,458 bring the budget to \$160,437. Silvio urged everyone to make calls to our council members and the Mayor's office.**

**Mary asked if a petition would help. John stated that he would draft a sample letter to be sent to the Mayor.**

## **VII. Borough President's Report – Thomas Lucania**

**Thomas reported that the Borough President had a meeting with the district managers to create a strategy for fighting this cuts.**

**Thomas reported that there will be a delegation of district managers and chairs and city council meeting the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of January to restore the 4% cut for January and then the \$10% cut for July 2011 restored.**

**Thomas reported that those board members who are up for reappoint will be receiving their reappointment applications shortly. He asked those who want to be reappointed to return their applications by the first week in February. He stated that anyone who is interested in being on Community Board 11 can go on line for an application or get one from the board office. Thomas stated Community Board 11 receives a number of applicants with few openings. He stated that the Borough President will be make appointments mid year if there are openings.**

**He read the following reports:**

**1. Borough President Diaz's statement opposition to MTA's proposed service cuts & elimination of student discounts**

**2. Day of Outrage at the Court House on senseless killing of 3 residents doing normal things.**

**2. Borough President Diaz calls for an end to gun violence during 'National Day of Outrage'**

**3. Borough President Diaz's statement regarding Department of Education Closing of Columbus High School**

**Thomas reported that Jessie Mohica will be meeting with the schools. He stated that the Borough President is very concerned about these closings**

**4. Statement by Borough President on City Council Vote on Kingsbridge Armory Project**

**5. Borough President Diaz talked about the economic future of the Bronx during borough wide summit**

**6. Borough President Diaz announces the creation of a public Housing Advisory Council**

**7. Bronx Zoo partners with Bronx borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. and the Bronx Chamber of Commerce on Holiday Toy Drive**

**Borough President Ruben Diaz jr. extends his best wishes for a Happy Healthy Season and Best Wishes in 2010. He thanks all the members of the community board, the District manager and office staff for all of their work during 2009 and looks forward to great accomplishments in the New Year.**

**Dom Castore spoke. He stated that Community Board 11 changed its committee structure to one of geographic lines. He stated that in the Van Nest area they were able to get rid of drugs. He reported that Captain Greeley is a great captain. He stated that we are looking forward to a bank in the Van Nest area and the renovation and enlarge of the park. He also reported that the flow of traffic on Tomlinson Avenue has been reversed.**

### **VIII. Committee Reports**

#### **A. Bronx Park East/Olinville – Joseph Thompson**

**1. Street Closing application from Cindy Mazzella on behalf of the Neighborhood Initiates Development Cooperation to operate a street fair on Bronxwood Avenue from Allerton Avenue to Boston Roar on May 1<sup>st</sup> from 9 AM – 5 PM.**

**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 application. PASSED**

#### **2. White Plains Road Congested Corridor Project**

**Joe reported that this project will reconstruct White Plains Road from 215<sup>th</sup> street to Van Nest Avenue and the north side of Pelham Parkway. Joe reported that 2 public hearings were held in Community Board 12. Joe reported that John met with 2 groups. He stated that we need more voices.**

#### **3. Allerton Avenue Bike Lanes**

**A great deal of discussion took place on these bike lanes and whether they are used. It was said that they are creating a dangerous situation because you are going from a 2 way to a 1 way lane and if a bus is there you cannot get by. It was also said that they tend to slow the traffic down which helps prevent speeding. John reported that all over the city these lanes are not being used. He stated that every community that has bike lanes is asking that they be removed. He stated that only in Borough Park have they been removed and this was due to religious reasons.**

**A Motion was made by Joe Thompson, Seconded by Joe Bombace- That Community Board 11 send a letter to DOT requesting that the bike lanes be removed from Boston Road to Williamsbridge Road**

After further discussion Frano Zagreda asked if Joe would withdraw his motion in favor of one by himself and Joe withdrew his motion.

**A Motion was made by Frano Zagreda, Seconded by Silvio Mazzella – That Community Board 11 send a letter to DOT requesting that the bike lanes from Bronx Park East to Gun Hill Road be removed. PASSED WITH 2 OPPOSED BY MARY PALIOTTA AND IRENE RUKAJ**

**3. Street closing application from Rev. Jay Gooding of the Fellowship Tabernacle Church to close East Gun Hill Road between Pearsall and Throop Avenues from August 18<sup>th</sup> to August 20<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 - 9:00 PM for a religious ceremony**

**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 application. PASSED**

**B. Indian Village/Westchester Heights- Dr. Mahendra Patel**

**Dr. Patel reported that the committee had not met this month.**

**1. Street closing application from Rev. Matthew J. Furey of St Francis Xavier Church to close Haight Avenue between Van Nest and Morris Park Avenues from June 24<sup>th</sup> to June 27<sup>th</sup> with a set up on Wednesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> from 4 – 10 PM, Fair on Thursday and Friday, June 24<sup>th</sup> & June 25<sup>th</sup> from 5 -10 PM and Saturday-Sunday 12 Noon-10 PM.**

**John gave the background on this application.**

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

**C. Morris Park/Van Nest – Joe Bombace**

**Joe reported that the Minutes had submitted.**

**1. Bronx Greenway Project**

**A Motion was made by Joe Bombace, Seconded by Sal Conforto – That Community Board 11 send a letter of support to the State Banking Commission supporting Cross County Bank's application to open a branch in Van Nest. PASSED**

**2. Street closing application from Rev. Gregory Clark of Ecclesia Church International to close Bronxdale Avenue between Van Nest and Pierce Avenues from June 25<sup>th</sup> to June 27<sup>th</sup> from 9 AM-9PM for a religious event.**

**A Motion was made by Joe Bombace, Seconded by Blanche Rifkin – That community Board 11 send a letter to SAPO stating that we have no objection to the issuing of this street closing application. PASSED**

**3. Request by Charles Khalil of Mangia Bevi – 702 Morris Park Avenue to transfer the liquor license from Dan Fassalino to Charles Khalil**

**A Motion was made by Joe Bombace, Seconded by Sal Conforto – That Community Board 11 send a letter to the SLA stating that we have no objection to the changing of this cooperation name. PASSED**

**Gene asked about the location and John explained that it was changed from a club to a restaurant and the new owners want the old owners name off everything**

**4. Request by the Morris Park Community Association to co-name Hone Avenue between Morris Park and Rhinelander Avenues “Rocco Miano Way”**

**A Motion was made by Silvio Mazzella, Seconded by Sal Conforto – That Community Board 11 send a letter to Councilman Vacca asking that this name be added to Hone Avenue. PASSED**

**6. Request for conversion of a liquor license from beer and wine to a full liquor license for Mambo Italiano – 866 Morris Park Avenue and that the 30 day rule is waived.**

**A Motion was made by Joe Bombace, Seconded by Mary Paliotta – That Community Board 11 send a letter to the SLA stating that we have no objection to changing the license from wine & beer to full liquor, and that we waive to 30 day rule. PASSED**

**7. Request for a liquor license for Café Sirota Corp. – 1808 Hone Avenue**

**Discussion took place on this location that was previously Bobby’s Café.**

**A Motion was made by Joe Bombace, 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 BERNADETTE FERRARA AND 1 ABSTENTION FROM MARY PALIOTTA**

**Marcy asked about the no barbecuing in Bronx Park East. John stated that he was working on it and told her to see the Bronx Park East Minutes. He also stated there is talk about putting barbecue pits in the Rosedale Section of the park.**

**D. Pelham Gardens – Tony Vitaliano**

**Tony stated that attendance was low at his meeting as the date had been changed. He stated that after the New Year they would go back to their usually meeting date.**

**1. Application from Community Board 11 to close Gunther Avenue between Allerton and mace Avenues from August 19<sup>th</sup> to August 29<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 PM to 10:00 PM with a set up date of August 18<sup>th</sup> at 8 AM and breakdown o n August 30<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM.**

**John reported that he spoke with the principal at I.S. 144 to find out when the school is not in session, and this is the only time.**

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

**E. Youth and Education – Diane Norris**

**Diane thanked the members who attended the meeting on Thursday.**

**1. Closing of Columbus High School**

**Diane reported Columbus High School is on the list of failing schools. She stated that there are also 5 smaller schools located in the building. Diane also stated that there will be a rally held to keep the school open.**

**A great deal of discussion took place on the fact that lumped into the report on the schools performance is children that come into the school mid year and do not speak English. Some children do not graduate for 6 years due to their lack of English. It was also brought up that if Columbus closes there will be no zone high school in our district. It was also stated that the distribution of money for the schools is divided so that a school with less students gets the same money as a school with more students. All stated that not everyone is**



college material, nor wants to go to college and these schools offer skills to these students.

Bob spoke about Columbine, and how some teachers and students from there came to see how Columbus works.

It was also discussed about seeing that students coming in the middle of the year are not lumped in with the kids who were there all year for the schools rating. Also a question was raised as to what would happen to the teachers who are there now.

A Motion was made by Diane Norris, Seconded by Joe Thompson – That Community Board 11 send a letter to DOE supporting Columbus High School remaining opening and urging DOE to work closely with the schools. **PASSED**

## **2. Ban on Bake sales in Public Schools**

A Motion was made by Diane Norris, Seconded by Sandra Unger – That Community Board 11 send a letter to DOE opposing the Ban on Bake Sales in our schools. **PASSED WITH 1 OPPOSED BY DR. MAHENDRA PATEL**

## **F. Land Use – Joseph McManus**

Joe reported that the Minutes had been distributed

**1. Streetscape Preservation Zoning Text Amendment ULURP #N100139ZRY**

A Motion was made by Joe McManus, Seconded by Sal Conforto – that Community Board 11 send a letter to City Planning approving this Zoning text Amendment. **PASSED WITH 1 ABSTENTION WITH CAUSE BY JESSICA DEWBERRY**

## **IX. Old Business**

Bernadette reported that the Van Nest Post Office is still on the cutting board. She stated that in January there will be a rally in front of the Van Nest post office to oppose this closing.

Discussion took place on the lack of services available at some of the branches.

Dr. Patel commented on the commercial traffic on Seminole getting worse. He also spoke about the No Left Turn sign outside of Jacobi Hospital on Eastchester Road not being observed.

Gene spoke about a meeting that held with the Postmaster two or three months ago. He stated that the only thing that gone done

**from that meeting was that the floors got washed. He stated that there was still graffiti and the steps are peeling.**

**John said that he would step up another meeting.**

**Mary spoke about a problem that she had with not receiving packages and mail going to another address. She stated that she had problems when she went to the web site and finally wrote a letter to the U.S. Post Office in Washington. She stated that she received a formal letter followed by another letter in a month. Mary stated that the carrier was replaced. She stated that people have to complain correctly to have their problem resolved.**

**Joe McManus stated that he had made complaints to the Commission and they were still not corrected.**

**Sal stated that senior citizens need the post office for money order as there are no banks in the area.**

**Dr. Patel asked that that Postmaster be invited to come to a board meeting.**

**John stated that we could not bring the Postmaster to a board meeting for individual problems.**

**Dom recognized Elana Schwartz representing Congressman Crowley and Kenny Agosto.**

**Kenny thanked everyone for their kind expressions of sympathy at his fathers passing.**

**Bob spoke about the cuts that the Mayor has proposed to the community boards and Metro cards for students being phased out. He asked why there was a billion dollars for free transportation to tourists. He also stated that Staten Island gets 5 times the education money that we do.**

**There being no further business before the board, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Ruth Burko,  
Secretary**

**ATTENDANCE AT BOARD MEETING OF DECEMBER 17, 2009**

**PRESENT**

<b>Joseph Bacote</b>	<b>(0)</b>	<b>Dr. Mahendra Patel</b>	<b>(0)</b>
<b>Joseph Bombace</b>	<b>(0)</b>	<b>Robert Potter</b>	<b>(1)</b>
<b>Dominic Castore</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>Vincent Prezioso</b>	<b>(2)</b>
<b>Sal Conforto</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>Eliezer Rodriguez</b>	<b>(3)</b>
<b>Albert D'Angelo</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>Blanche Comras Rifkin</b>	<b>(2)</b>
<b>Jessica Dewberry</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>Joanne Rubino</b>	<b>(0)</b>
<b>Patrick Dolan</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>Irene Rukaj</b>	<b>(2)</b>
<b>Rosemary Durso</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>Martin Sacewicz</b>	<b>(0)</b>
<b>Bernadette Ferrara</b>	<b>(0)</b>	<b>Vincent Taddeo</b>	<b>(1)</b>
<b>Denise Giocondo</b>	<b>(0)</b>	<b>Joseph Thompson</b>	<b>(0)</b>
<b>Marcy Gross</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>Joseph Thurston</b>	<b>(0)</b>
<b>Annette Marchitello</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>Gene Tutora</b>	<b>(0)</b>
<b>Silvio Mazzella</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>Sandra Unger</b>	<b>(2)</b>
<b>Joseph McManus</b>	<b>(0)</b>	<b>Anthony Vitaliano</b>	<b>(1)</b>
<b>Diane Norris</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>Janice Walcott</b>	<b>(0)</b>
<b>Mary Paliotta</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>Franco Zagreda</b>	<b>(1)</b>

**ABSENT**

<b>Richard Angeletti</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>Kenneth Gelnick</b>	<b>(2)</b>
<b>Ruth Burko</b>	<b>(1)</b>	<b>David Leavitt</b>	<b>(1)</b>
<b>Junior Campbell</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>Hazel Miura</b>	<b>(4)</b>
<b>Joseph Carfora</b>	<b>(4)</b>	<b>Elizabeth Nazario</b>	<b>(4)</b>
<b>Michael Carriere</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>Pat Quaranta</b>	<b>(3)</b>
<b>Estella Foley</b>	<b>(4)</b>	<b>Joseph Reda</b>	<b>(4)</b>
<b>Harain Figueroa</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>Oral Selkridge</b>	<b>(2)</b>
<b>Rabbi Moshe Fuchs</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>Linda White</b>	<b>(5)</b>

**EX OFFICIO BOARD MEMBERS**

**Jeremy Warneke - Representing Councilman James Vacca**

**OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS**

**John Doyle - Representing Senator Jeffrey Klein**

**Deborah C. Nelson - Representing Councilman Charles Barren**

**STAFF, BOROUGH PRESIDENT AND AGENCY OFFICIALS**

**John A. Fratta, District Manager - Community Board #11**

**Harriet Lasky, Secretary - Community Board #11**

**Aurelia Greene - Deputy Borough President**

**Thomas Lucania - Representing Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.**