



COMMUNITY BOARD #11, BRONX
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Dominic Castore
Chairman

Ruben Diaz, Jr.
Borough President

John A. Fratta
District Manager

COMMITTEES

Bronx Park
 East/Ollinville

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, APRIL 22, 2010 IN LUBIN HALL
CORRECTED BOARD MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 PM by Vincent Prezioso,
 First Vice Chair.

I. Gallery Session

a. Mike Hertz – New York State Nurses Association – Montefiore

Mr. Hertz stated that he was the representative of the registered New York State nurses at Montefiore Hospital. He stated that they were concerned about the unsafe staffing at Montefiore. Mr. Hertz stated that Montefiore management wants to cut the nurses benefits. He stated that 25% of the nurses are eligible for retirement at the end of the year. Mr. Hertz also spoke about the fact that the emergency room is understaffed. He stated that they want to make sure that the patients are well taken care of.

Pat Quaranta stated that he and Blanche Rifkin sit on the Advisory Board of Einstein Hospital. He stated that with the previous leadership everything was ok. He stated that the present leadership tells us that everything is ok, so we do not know if there are problems

Frano Zagreda stated that employee satisfaction was to be reported.

Mike Carriere asked if there was a union and Mike stated that it was the New York State Nurses Association.

John asked if this was a budget problem and Mike stated that Montefiore turns a profit. He stated that major issues are staffing.

Joe Thompson asked if the number of complaints had increased and Mike stated that they have the highest number of protest assignments.

Vinny asked him to come before the Executive Board.

Marina King suggested that the union reps speak to the Advisory Board about their peeves.

b. Rebecca Ramos

Ms. Ramos stated that she has concerns about Muliner Avenue between Rhinelander and Morris Park Avenues. She stated that there is a need for a speed bump as drivers speed down this area. She spoke about a crossing sign at Rhinelander and Bronxdale Avenues.

John stated that once a request for a speed bump is put in and rejected it can not be put in again for 18 months. He stated that the Board can ask for a traffic light study on Rhinelander and Muliner Avenues. John stated that he would talk to DOT about traffic calming measures and striping the street.

Joe Bombace stated that this was rejected because Delancy was day lighted and made one way.

Ms. Ramos asked about the reasons that Mathew Muliner Park closes at 6.

John explained that there were drugs and gangs in the park and the people on the block asked for it to be closed at 6.

Ms. Ramos asked about getting park workers so that it can stay open later.

John told her that there are no funds for workers in the park. He stated that the Board would need a petition from the people on the block to keep the park open. John stated that he has tried to get PEP in the park.

Joe Bombace stated that there have been arrests in Matthews Muliner Park for smoking of pot in the park. He stated that these are quality of life issues.

c. Lorraine Ritter/Yolanda Dessus – Pelham Parkway Houses

Ms. Ridder spoke about the severe problems at the Pelham Parkway House

1. Entrance at 2245 and 2255 Bronxwood Avenue broken
2. Graffiti in the lobby and the staircases
3. Urine soaked floors
4. Floors not cleaned
5. Drugs being sold in the buildings

Captain Nicholson, the new Captain of the 49th precinct spoke. He stated that he came from Bronx Narcotics. Captain Nicholson stated that he made a huge drug bust at the Pelham Parkway Houses 3 weeks. He stated that there are 2 steady foot posts every night and that there is police activity in the Pelham Parkway Houses.

Ms. Ritter stated they are cooperating with the police.

6. Screening of tenants needs to be done
7. Elevator fixed on Sunday and broken again
8. Garbage, TV and mattresses strewn in front of the building
9. Rodents

John asked if they had spoken to the TA president. He stated that the Board would help her.

Ms. Ritter spoke about a tenant that has acoustic speakers in her house. She stated that NYCH and the police were informed about this noise.

John stated that when he gets back from vacation he would set up a meeting with NYCH, the police, the Borough President and elected officials.

Yolanda Dessus spoke about being threatened and that when she requested a transfer she was told Housing is for low income and she needs to find another apartment outside of NYCHA.

d. Brian Adams

Brian spoke about the Health and Public Safety Committees which were no longer part of the Board. He asked that they be brought back. Brian asked what was being built at the southwest corner of White Plains Road and Lydig Avenue.

John stated that it would be retail stores.

e. Helene Samberg – Van Nest Library

Helene thanked the Board for supporting the library. She stated that the library stands to lose 42 million in funding. Helene stated that this would mean cuts in hours of service and programs. She stated that there has been a rise in people using the libraries. She stated that if these cuts go through they would lose 800 employees and 21 branches would be shut entirely. Helene reported that they would be starting a letter writing campaign.

f. Patricia Charles – Eastchester Gardens

Ms. Charles thanked Joe Thompson and the Morris Park Association in support for their Walk for Safety. She stated that Eastchester Gardens will support other areas. Ms. Charles asked about the building at Bouck and Adees Avenues. She stated that is a city building.

John asked for the address and thanked Pat for all her help.

Joe Thompson reported that the 49th Precinct Clergy Council participated in the march against drugs and gangs. He stated that Bob Potter and the Morris Park Association were there. Joe stated that the Morris Park Association has been part of every march. He also thanked Nancy Dawson of MADD. Joe stated that 6 religious orders participated. He stated that the next march will be at the Pelham Parkway Houses and then Eastchester Houses again.

II. Elected Officials

Captain Kevin Nicholson stated that he was the new commander of the 49th Precinct. He stated that he had been in narcotics for 5 years and worked on the arrests that were made at the Pelham Parkway Houses. Captain Nicholson stated that the police have made a dent in the drugs at the Pelham Parkway Houses. He stated that he was very aggressive and cares about people. He thanked Mike Carriere for painting lines in the 49th Precinct parking lot. Captain Nicholson stated that he is trying to improve the appearance of the 49th Precinct. He stated that he wants to get a sign placed on top of the 49 poles saying "Welcome to the 49th Precinct". He introduced the new Community Affairs Officer Jay Sturdovan.

Vinny introduced the following representatives: Jeremy Warneke, representing Councilman James Vacca, Mike Frittola, representing Senator Jeffrey Klein and Marina King, representing Senator Ruben Diaz Sr.

Marina reported that the 2010 Census has begun. She stated that Manhattan has the highest amount of census forms mailed in with Queen, the Bronx, Staten Island and then Brooklyn. She stated that only 63% of the forms sent out had been returned. Marina stated that if we are not counted we are missing money. Marina spoke about a new wireless phone service that is available to people on Medicaid, Sap and Section 8. She stated that anyone interested can go to the web site www.assurancewireless.com or call 708-607-4014. She also reported that Senator Diaz donated 32 new computers to the Collegiate Math and Science Institute. She spoke about a press release yesterday that the FBI and the IRS had raided the Sound View Health Center. She stated that health services at this center must continue for the community.

Mike reported that Senator Klein sent a letter to DOT requesting that traffic controls be placed at P.S. 97. He thanked John and the others for the Court Watcher. Mike reported Cross County Bank in the Van Nest area has submitted their request to open a branch here. He stated that it takes 90 days and 60 days have passed. Mike reported that Senator Klein is cooperating with AAA to have a Defensive Driving Course at the Allerton Library on May 1st. He also reported that Senator Klein is sponsoring at Spring Street Fair on May 1st with NIDC.

Jeremy reported that the express service on the #5 train has been discontinued during the day until August. He also spoke about a street light request for Barnes and Lydig Avenues. Jeremy reported that there will be a hearing on the request for a 12.9% increase in water. He stated that Councilman Vacca is fighting it.

III. Minutes

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

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

John reported that the Pelham Parkway Project is coming to fruition. He stated that there will be public hearing on May 12th with DDC and Community Board at 7 PM in Aging America. John stated that flyers will be sent out. John stated that the project is to begin in August.

Laconia Avenue – John reported that the Bronx Park East Committee will have a public hearing with Commissioner Moran and the people who live on Laconia Avenue in trying to help the traffic there. He stated that we tried to get St. Catherine's Academy, but they would not give it to us. John stated that we are looking for a new location for the public hearing.

John spoke about enforcement on Lydig Avenue. He stated that the Fire Department issued violation to some stores. He stated that there was shoddy electrical work done. John said that he will revisit the area again with the Pelham Parkway South Neighborhood Association. He stated that there will be a motion before the Board tonight on having a zero tolerance on White Plains Road and Lydig Avenue. He stated that if the city agrees nothing can go on the sidewalks.

John reported that Sanitation has been helping us clean the Transit Police building area. He stated that DCAS told us that it is the MTAs responsibility to clean this. He stated that the MTA is crying funding blues. John reported that the Community Board fought for this MTA building and they must take care of it and set up a schedule of cleaning.

John reported that the proposed budget cuts for the community boards are still in place. He stated that if these cuts go through our budget will be cut to \$144,000 from \$207,000. John stated that we are hoping that the City Council will be able to restore our budget. He stated that when the Mayor was asked if he wants to get rid of community boards he said no. John reported that Councilman Vacca is taking the lead on getting these funds restored. He stated that there had been 3 meeting held with the district mangers. John stated that we want to get a petition started in order to get a

referendum on the ballot that would prevent the Mayor from cutting our budget. He stated that we need 100,000 signatures.

John thanked Councilman Vacca for his help in getting a bill passed that gives drivers a 5 minute grace period before a traffic enforcement agent can issue a ticket. He also reported that a traffic agent cannot zap your windshield if you are double parked and sitting in the car. He must ask you to move, and if you do not he can ticket you.

John reported that he attended a meeting with Senator Klein and the Executives of Home Depot from Atlanta Georgia. He stated that the community did not want Home Depot in its community. John stated that they promised to maintain their property. He stated that it is clean now because they knew the executives were coming. John stated that Home Depot does not respect our community. He stated that they have a sign which indicated that they gave out a million dollars in our community board. John stated that no one in our community received a dime. He stated that we also did not get jobs as promised.

VI. Treasurer's Report – Silvio Mazzella

Silvio reported that an updated Friends of had been submitted as well as the Community Board report and there have been no changes. Anyone with questions can see Harriet or me.

VII. Borough President's Report – Andy Toledo

Andy reported that each month the Borough President meets with NYCHA. He stated that he would take the complaints for the Pelham Parkway Houses back to the Borough President.

Andy reported that:

1. On May 13th in conjunction with Senator Klein there will be a Bronx Homeowners Forum at Fordham University
2. On May 1st there will be a Food Summit at Hostos College
3. Bronx Week will run from May 15th to May 23rd. Information is available on the web site.
4. Kingsbridge Armory

VIII. Committee Reports

A. Bronx Park East/Olinville Joseph Thompson

1. Laconia Avenue Traffic Calming

Joe reported that Commissioner Connie Moran came to our meeting and told us that narrowing the streets will slow down the traffic speeding. He stated that we are looking into other measures before narrowing the streets such as putting blinders on the traffic light.

A Motion was made by Joe Thompson, Seconded by _____ - That this item be tabled. **PASSED**

2. Application by Joe Castillo of 767 Restaurant Corp at 767 Astor Avenue for a wine and beer license NEW

Discussion took place on the fact that the owner had not shown up to the previously held meetings. It was stated that he did come to our meeting this time.

A Motion was made by Joe Thompson, 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 new license. **PASSED**

3. Application from Diana Sanabria for a block party on Hone Avenue between Boston Road and Arnow Avenue on July 31st from 12 Noon to 8 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 permit. **PASSED**

4. Application by Joseph Menta for a block party on Hering Avenue between Mace and Waring Avenues on July 31st from 12 Noon to 8 PM.

Marty Sacewicz wanted to make it known that Allerton Avenue Association is not part of this block party.

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

5. Application by Ardjaj of Alex Café d/b/a Atlantic Café at 2526 Wallace Avenue for renewal of a wine and beer license

A Motion was made by Joe Thompson, Seconded by Joe Bacote – That Community Board 11 send a letter to the SLA stating that we have no objection to the renewal of this license. **PASSED**

B. Indian Village/Westchester Heights – Michael Carriere

Mike reported that the minutes had been submitted.

1. Application by Hang Shao Lao of Happy Garden d/b/a Mr. Q's Chinese & Japanese Restaurant at 2115-2117 Williamsbridge Road for renewal of a liquor license.

A Motion was made by Mike Carriere, Seconded by Vinny Prezioso – That Community Board 11 send a letter to SAPO stating that we have no objection to the issuing of this renewal license. **PASSED**

2. Turning Lydig Avenue from Williamsbridge Road to Jacobi Hospital one way going westbound

Mike stated that the Committee would be holding a public hearing on this issue.

C. Morris Park/Van Nest – Al D'Angelo

1. Application by Juan Cruz of Jay Jay Grocery Corp. at 1701 Unionport Road for renewal of a beer and wine license

2. Application by George Arsensis of Rainbow Restaurant at 2105 White Plains Road for renewal of a liquor license

3. Application by Nikolas Anagostos of the Bronxdale Diner d/b/a Castle Hill Diner at 1506 Bronxdale Avenue for renewal of a liquor license

4. Application by Michelle M. Tevere of Mendecion Inc. d/b/a Gran Caffè at 1056 Morris Park Avenue for renewal of a liquor license

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 renewal of these liquor licenses. **PASSED**

5. Request for zero visibility for White Plains Road from Pelham Parkway to Marin Place and Lydig Avenue from White Plains Road to Matthews Avenue

A Motion was made by Al D'Angelo, Seconded by Silvio Mazzella – That Community Board 11 send a letter to the City requesting a zero visibility for White Plains Road from Pelham Parkway to Marin Place and Lydig Avenue from White Plains Road to Matthews Avenue. **PASSED**

John spoke about Mangia E Bevi at 702 Morris Park Avenue. He stated that that they saw it will be a restaurant grill. John stated that this location has been a problem for the community.

Joe Bombace spoke about the violations that were issued and the flyers that were put out.

John stated that they would have to come to the May Morris Park meeting. He stated that this would be the agenda for the June Board meeting.

D. Pelham Gardens – Anthony Vitaliano

1. Fratelli Restaurant at 2507 Eastchester Road for renewal of a liquor license

A Motion was made by Tony Vitaliano, Seconded by Frano Zagreda – That Community Board 11 send a letter to the SLA stating that we have no objection to issuing of liquor license. **PASSED**

2. Application by Dwaine Williams for a block party on O'Neill Place between Eastchester Road and Fenton Avenue on August 14th from 12 Noon to 7 PM

A Motion was made by Tony Vitaliano, 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 permit. **PASSED**

Tony reported that Mr. James Lamere from Forestry came to our meeting. He stated that we vented on him. Tony stated that he was told that they were not in our area because they had 117 serious tree complaints than our Board had. He stated that Mr. Lamere said that in some cases they could not touch the trees until Con Ed shut the power off. He asked that Con Ed be invited to the Executive Committee meeting and the Parks Department to discuss the cleanliness of Pelham Parkway.

John stated that we invited Con Ed and the Parks Department to come to the Executive Committee, but they did not show up. He stated that Parks came to the Pelham Gardens meeting. John stated that in the letter we gave them the wrong date. John stated that Mr. Lamere is the head of forestry and that they cannot touch a tree with Con Ed wires until Con Ed shuts the power off. John stated that Con Ed did not respond to our letter. He stated that we will now go to the head of Con Ed. John stated that the Bronx was not a priority for Con Ed, Westchester was. He stated that in some cases homeowners did not have power for 4 days.

Al suggested that we call a news conference every time this happens.

Tony stated that he was concerned about the cleanliness of Pelham Parkway.

John stated that when we invite the representatives we will give them our agenda.

E. Nominations – Eugene Tutora

Gene reported that the Committee consisted of Rosemary Durso, Joe Thurston and himself. He presented the following slate of officers:

Chairman – Dominic Castore

First Vice Chair – Vincent Prezioso

Second Vice Chair – Joseph Thompson

Treasurer – Silvio Mazzella

Secretary – Ruth Burko

Gene reported that nominations would be taken from the floor tonight and again at the May meeting. He stated that anyone nominated at the May meeting must be present or have indicated in writing their willingness to run.

Gene asked if there were any nominations for Chairman. There were none. He asked if there were any nominations for First Chair. There were none. Gene asked if there were any nominations for Second Vice Chair. There were none. He asked if there were nomination for Treasurer. There were none. Gene asked if there were nominations for Secretary. There were none.

Joe Thompson reported that the 49th Precinct Breakfast will be held on May 21st at Maestro's. He stated that invitations will be sent out.

Joanne Rubino asked for the status of 1464 Astor Avenue

John reported that the final hearing was held and the community lost.

Joanne asked about the Board's web site. She volunteered to help. She stated that she was on Face Book which has a free page open to the public to place information on it. She stated than anyone can contribute to it.

John stated that the Board will start putting information on it.

Vinny Taddeo asked about Moreno bakery. He stated that it looks like a restaurant.

Bernadette asked about the Van Nest post Office. John stated that we did not have information.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Ruth Burko,
Secretary

ATTENDANCE AT BOARD MEETING OF APRIL 22, 2010*

PRESENT

Joseph Bacote	(2)	Diane Norris	(4)
Joe Bombace	(0)	Dr. Mahendra Patel	(0)
Ruth Burko	(4)	Robert Potter	(1)
Michael Carriere	(5)	Vincent Prezioso	(2)
Al D'Angelo	(3)	Pat Quaranta	(3)
Jessica Dewberry	(2)	Eliezer Rodriguez	(4)
Patrick Dolan	(1)	Blanche Comras Rifkin	(4)
Rosemary Durso	(2)	Joanne Rubino	(2)
Bernadette Ferrara	(1)	Martin Sacewicz	(0)
Harain Figueroa	(4)	Vincent Taddeo	(3)
Rabbi Moshe Fuchs	(4)	Joseph Thompson	(0)
Kenneth Gelnick	(2)	Joseph Thurston	(2)
Denise Giocondo	(0)	Eugene Tutora	(0)
Marcy Gross	(1)	Anthony Vitaliano	(3)
David Leavitt	(1)	Janice Walcott	(0)
Silvio Mazzella	(1)	Franco Zagreda	(1)
Hazel Miura	(6)		

ABSENT

Richard Angeletti	(7)	Mary Paliotta	(3)
Junior Campbell	(4)	Joseph Reda	(7)
Dominic Castore	(5)	Irene Rukaj	(5)
Sal Conforto	(2)	Oral Selkridge	(4)
Annette Marchitello	(6)	Sandra Unger	(4)
Joseph McManus	(1)	Linda White	(9)
Elizabeth Nazario	(9)		

EX OFFICIO BOARD MEMBERS

Jeremy Warneke, representing Councilman James Vacca

OTHER ELECTED OFFICIALS

Marina King, representing Senator Ruben Diaz Sr.

Mike Frittola, representing Senator Jeffrey Klein

STAFF, BOROUGH PRESIDENT AND AGENCY OFFICIALS

John A. Fratta, District Manager – Community Board 11

Harriet Lasky, Secretary – Community Board 11

Andy Toledo, representing Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.

GUESTS

Helene Samberg – Van Nest Library

Kay Pinto Cardona

Nancy Dawson – MADD

Cecilia Haas

* Includes absences from public hearing on 9/9 and 2/18

