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Dominic Castore
 Chairman

Ruben Diaz, Jr.
 Borough President

John A. Fratta
 District Manager

COMMITTEES

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18,
 2010 IN LUBIN HALL**

Bronx Park
 East/Ollinville

**The meeting was called to order at 7:12 PM by
 Dominic Castore, Chairman.**

Community
 Development and Budget
 Priorities

I. Gallery Session

Education/Youth

**a. Kathleen Canzonieno and Mrs. Zamirudin teacher
 and Aide at St. Dominic's School.**

Indian
 Village/Westchester Hgts

Ms. Canzonieno reported that St. Dominic's School is located at the lower end of Van Nest and Morris Park Avenues. She stated that most of the students come from disadvantaged and/or single parent homes who live below the poverty level. Ms. Canzonieno asked that the Community Board support keeping the school open. She stated that notice of the proposed closing came as a shock to the faculty and parents. Ms. Canzonieno stated that they were promised that the children would be placed in viable schools. She stated that St. Dominic's School has the lowest tuition, and that most of the parents could not afford to send their children to other catholic schools. Ms. Canzonieno stated that St. Dominic's School is open to the community.

Land Use

Mrs. Zamirudin reported that she has worked at St. Dominic's School for 14 years. She stated that the parents of the students work very hard to send their children here. She stated that many of the students do not want to go home after the school day as the atmosphere at the school is one of love.

Morris Park/Van Nest/
 Pelham Parkway

Pelham Gardens

Ms. Canzoniero reported that the Archbishop has visited more affluent school, but has never come to our school.

Several Board members stated that they and their family's had attended St. Dominic's School. It was suggested that they come up with ways to raise money, and that the official decision on what schools would be closed would come out in January.

John reported that when the Archdiocese decided to rent Our Lady of Solace School for a Charter School we were told it was not to hurt St. Dominic's. He stated that St. Dominic's is an anchor for the community. John stated that the Board could try to put pressure on to keep the school open.

Joe Bombace reported that St. Dominic's Church does not have its own Pastor. They share a pastor with Our Lady of Solace. He stated that the Archdiocese wants to remove the nuns from their home. Joe stated that Sister Josefa and Sister Jasmine are going to fight this proposed closing.

Al stated that if this school closes it would mean an additional 200 students going into the public school system. This would put a hardship on the schools and the city's budget.

A Motion was made by Sal Conforto, Seconded by Joe Bombace – That Community Board 11 send a letter to the Archdiocese requesting that this school not be closed. PASSED

b. Joseph Vereen Jr.

Mr. Vereen reported that he was the new Program Director for the Eastchester Community Center Cornerstone at 3060 Yates Avenue. He stated that he is setting up his Advisory Board.

c. Brian Adams

Brian reported that on White Plains Road and.. He also asked about the new building that is going up on White Plains Road and Lydig Avenue. John stated that it would be two stories and house a fitness center below.

d. Cece Haas

Cece stated that she was here representing Mike Heller who had another meeting tonight.

Cece spoke about the school. She reported that Dr. Amy Erchil went to the Morris Park Association and spoke about senior issues. Cece reported that on November 20th Einstein will be holding a glucose screening at the Bronxdale/Van nest Academy. She reported that

Einstein will be holding health issues and information on breast cancer diagnosis. Cece reported that this will be held on November 30th from 7-9 PM in Lubin Hall.

Cece complimented the Northeast Bronx Association for their food and toy collection. She stated that food went to St. Lucy's and the toys were going to the Evaluation Clinic.

f. Helene Samberg – Van Nest Branch Library

Helene reported that due to the budget cuts the Van Nest library closes at 7 PM on Thursday. She thanked the Board for helping to keep the libraries open. Helene stated that they are waiting for the Mayor's budget to come out. She stated that they could lose hours of operation. Helene reported on the Tree Faiths events that are going on from October through February. This includes Judaism, Christianity and Islam. She reported on the different that would be going on including a teen program on December 16th called sacred mouthful and the Secret of the Dead Sea Scrolls on December 4th. Also there will be a program of Jewish music and Presley and melody.

g. Pat Flanagan

Mr. Flanagan spoke about the proposed legislation to privatize public housing. He spoke about how it would affect the seniors.

II. Elected officials

a. Jeremy Warneke – representing Councilman James Vacca

Jeremy reported that Councilman Vacca assisted Congressman Crowley on. He reported that on December 3rd there will be a Fall Festival in Westchester Square. Jeremy spoke about the natural history. He also reported that the Metro vans would be coming to several locations. Jeremy reported that November is lung cancer awareness month. He stated that free screening is available at NYU. Jeremy distributed flyers. He stated that early diagnosis and treatment is needed for current and ex smokers.

b. John Doyle – representing Senator Jeffrey Klein

John reported that Jeff thanked the voters for reelecting him. He spoke about Loco drink and the need to get it repackaged and removed from grocery stores to liquor stores. John reported that the 49th Precinct did an undercover operation. He stated that out of 28 purchases only 11 were asked for ID. John stated that this drink is being sold next to nonalcoholic beverages. He stated that it should be

removed from grocery shelves within 6 weeks. John spoke about the court watchers program. He stated that anyone wanting to be part of this program should see him.

c. Michele Avila - representing Assemblywoman Naomi Rivera
Michele spoke about the season events that Assemblywoman Rivera is sponsoring. She also spoke about the press conference for Breast cancer. Michele stated that many people are not aware that their insurance will pay for reconstruction surgery.

Marcy asked if any of the elected officials were doing anything for Hanukah.

Edith stated that she knew that Assemblywoman Rivera does one, only they hear about it after it's over.

John Doyle reported that Senator Klein is planning a Christmas and Menorah lighting.

III. Minutes

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

IV. Chairman's Report – Dominic Castore

Dom reported that the Board had received 31 resumes for the District Manager's position. He reported that the Employees Relations Committee, the Officers would interview 12 of the candidates. Dom stated that the interviews will be held the first week of December. He stated that after the interviews one candidate will be chosen and brought before the Board at the December meeting. Dom asked that the candidates not solicit votes. Dom stated due to the conflict of interest no candidate can participate in discussion or vote on the candidate. Dom reported that Ruth Burko had been in an accident. He wished her a speedy recovery and stated that the Board had sent her a fruit basket.

Dom reported that a decision was made that every Board member and representative of an elected official who applied would get a courtesy interview.

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

John reported that the Amalgamated Bank opened a branch on White Plains Road. He reported that the grand opening was held on

Thursday. John stated that they honored Blanche and him. He stated that Amalgamated Bank is the only union bank around. John stated that they are working with the community groups.

John spoke about the Van Nest Park. He stated that the Board had asked the Parks Department to name the park after James Romito who was killed on 9/11. John stated that Commissioner Aponte rejected naming the park for him in a letter he sent to the Board and Councilman Vacca. He stated that his rationale was that he did not have ties to the park. Instead he would name the memorial for him. John stated that the Board and Councilman Vacca did not respond to this letter. He stated that 2 days before Veteran's Day a sign went up on the memorial saying James Romito memorial. John stated that the veterans objected to this as he was not a veteran but a hero of 9/11. He stated that the Veterans wanted the sign removed. John reported that one person called the father of James Romito and told him that the sign was coming down. John stated that Councilman Vacca spoke with Commissioner Benepe to have the signs removed from the memorial. He stated that people have asked that a sign be placed on the park fence asking Van Nest memorial Park

Joe Bombace reported that he received a call from Councilman Vacca that a sign was going up tomorrow James Romito memorial Park. He stated that they were going to rename the memorial Van Nest memorial Triangle. Joe thanked Jeremy for working on this.

Joe McManus stated that this is why the Board has a system to place names on streets and other locations.

Pirtam stated that the Van Nest community was upset by the sign.

John stated that the person should have called the Board or the elected officials and not the father of James Romito.

Sal stated that as a veteran he felt that what this person did was irresponsible.

Jeremy stated that the problem arose because parks does not keep us in the in the loop on what they are doing.

John reported that the injunction was lifted on the Pelham Parkway reconstruction project. He stated that the healthy trees that are located near the trees that have to be removed will be protected. John stated that the project will begin after the holidays. He stated that the only thing that the Alliance got was that where a tree is

coming down and it is near a live tree the root work will be done by hand.

Rabbi Fuchs spoke about Pelham Parkway South. He stated that it is now 6 lanes.

John stated that they will convert one lane on the north side going east and when they do the south side they will convert one lane going west. He stated that they will be working on 2 lanes. He stated that the buses will be using the service road and there will be no parking on the service road.

Marcy asked who the Alliance was.

John explained that they were community residents who were against the removal of the trees. He stated that they were self funded.

Joanne stated that if not for the Alliance more trees would be taken down.

Edith stated that credit should be given to the Pelham Parkway Neighborhood Association and the Alliance for this. She asked where the community was and elected officials on this. Edith stated that we need to stay on top of this.

John reported that one of our budget requests was to identify legal areas where barbecuing can take place in the park. He stated that we need more P.E.P. officers.

Edith reported that the Pelham Parkway Neighborhood Association meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month in Bronx House. She stated that 2 people from the Alliance came to the meeting. Edith stated that these 2 associations need to work together.

VI. Treasurer's Report – Silvio Mazzella

Silvio reported that there was no report as there were no changes. He reported that a mod was done taking \$1239 from code 499 and place \$1000 on a line for postage and \$239 on a line for supplies. Silvio reported that the closing balance for the Friends of Account was \$10,662.13

VII. Borough President's Report – Andy Toledo

Andy reported that board applications were available. He reported that there will be public hearing on getting a children's museum in the Bronx. Andy stated that the Bronx is the only borough that does not have a children's museum. He handed flyers on the new

mall. Andy reported on the gay hate crime that occurred in Community Board 5. He stated that there will be a public hearing on gay hate crimes. Andy stated that there is a high rate of suicides in the gay community. He reported that there will be a rally on Tuesday at the Bronx Court House, and flyers were distributed. Andy listed the Senior Citizens groups that were funded. They included the Allerton Avenue Homeowners and Tenants Associations, the Morris Park Community Association, the Northeast Bronx Association, Parkside, RAIN etc.

Bernadette reported that the Bronx does not have an animal center.

Andy reported that the Department of Building has a verbal agreement

VIII. Committee Reports

A. Bronx Park East/Olinville Committee – Joseph Thompson

1. Application from Lieniel Lama of Cosinita Restaurant Corp. – 651 Allerton Avenue for a NEW beer and wine license

2. Application from Vincent Pena of 2233 Steven Restaurant Corp. – 2233 Boston Road for a NEW beer and wine license

Joe reported that the Committee had tabled a vote on these 2 meetings ago because they did not come to the Committee meetings. He stated that when he went to the locations they said that they never received the letters. Joe stated that he hand delivered the letter and they came to the meeting.

A Motion was made by Joe Thompson, Seconded by Blanche Rifkin – That Community Board 11 send a letter to the SLA stating that we have no objection to the issuing of these new licenses. PASSED

3. Application from Arcadio Cabrece of 679 Allerton Avenue for RENEWAL of a license to sell beer and wine

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

Discussion took place on the fact that the reason some of the locations do not come to the meeting is that they do not speak or read English. It was suggested that a boiler point letter be done in Spanish, Russian and Albanian.

John reported that the letters did not come back to the office.

P.O. Doiley reported that the Crime Prevention Unit arrested a female juvenile in the Pelham Parkway Houses. He stated that the second one is still at large. P.O. Doiley stated that she does not live in Community Board 11, but attends Columbus High School. He reported that the first female has been arrested 15 times. P.O. Doiley also reported that there have been 49 burglaries. He stated that a homeless person is committing these burglaries. P.O. Doiley reported that there is a burglary pattern going on at the businesses on Brady Avenue and White Plains Road to Allerton Avenue. He stated that they are breaking the padlocks, raising the gates and breaking the windows. He asked that if you need more police in you area to contact him.

Silvio reported that the 49th Precinct Council meeting will be held on November 30th at Kings Harbor.

Hazel reported that the last 4-5 weekends she has seen a lot of young people in the area of her house. She stated that they are having parties in the Q building of the Coops. She stated that 200 people were in one apartment. Hazel stated that on Monday she went to management and was told that the tenant had been evicted months ago. Hazel reported that Captain Nicholson was there the day of the party. She stated that a person in the apartment pulled a gun.

John asked why the superintendent did not call the police. He stated that Captain Nicholson is on the ball.

Linda asked John to tell the Captain thank you for coming down the day a bb gun was being shot at people.

Irene reported that gangs are recruiting kids from the school. She stated that they are jumping kids on the trains.

John asked if the school has notified the police.

Doyle reported that Captain Nicholson knows about this. He stated that a sector car is going from Allerton to White Plains Road.

F. Youth and Education – Denise Giocondo

Denise reported that the minutes had been submitted.

She reported that Columbus has received an F rating because the kids do not graduate in 4 years. She stated that they want to change Columbus to charter schools.

A Motion was made by Denise Giocondo, Seconded by Sandy Unger – That Community Board 11 send a letter of support for the

application of a charter school being proposed by Columbus contingent upon CEC approving it. PASSED

John reported that Columbus is failing because kids failing are put in this school. He stated that the school is not given additional help.

Sandy reported that Columbus has to accept kids that no other school will accept.

John reported that if kids come into the school in February they are counted the same as kids that began in September.

Joanne Rubin reported that Lehman may also be closing.

G. Land Use – Joe McManus

Joe reported that there will be no Executive meeting on December 13th. He stated that the Community Board should be informed about street naming before it takes place. He thanked Jeff for the street sign striping.

IX. Old Business

Joe Reda asked John to check with DOT on the status of making Lydig Avenue one way from Seminole Avenue to Williamsbridge Road

X. New Business

Joe Thompson reported that 49th Precinct is having its 7th Food Drive after Thanksgiving. He reported that 14,000 pounds of food were distributed to St. Lucy's and Bronx Jewish

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

Respectfully submitted,



**Ruth Burko,
Secretary**

RB/hl